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FBIS-LAT-89-185 *26 September 1989*

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Cuba

Castro Presides Over Ministry Reorganization

FL2509121289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] A meeting was held yesterday at the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] to evaluate the progress of the work outlined in the order issued by the commander in chief to reorganize the Interior Ministry [MININT]. The meeting was presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and Army Corps General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, interior minister, and other leaders participated in the meeting.

Army Gen Raul Castro read the order issued by the commander in chief which names Division General Carlos Fernandez Gondin first vice minister of the MININT. Div Gen Fernandez Gondin, member of the PCC Central Committee, was serving as chief of the Counterintelligence Directorate of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

In his closing remarks, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro extensively described the antecedents and consequences of the errors and negative tendencies that took place for several years in the MININT. He stressed the basis for the reorganization of this organization in view of the historic experience of the revolution, the principles and ethics of socialism, and the political realities of the contemporary world.

Comrade Fidel Castro stressed the need to increase the efficiency of security and interior order organizations in compliance with the revolutionary traditions of the MININT and in unbreakable union with the workers and all the people. He recalled how sensitive the Cuban population is to the preservation of the climate of security and of strength, which was forged over 30 years of revolution, and their proven decision to resolutely fight against anti-social behavior and against any counterrevolutionary provocation.

The commander in chief analyzed the anti-Cuban policy of the current U.S. Administration in the present international situation. In this context, he stressed the PCC's position of principles and the priorities that arise from these principles to confront the imperialists campaigns of disinformation, pressure, threats, and aggression against countries like the GDR and Cuba, as well as the imperialists' policy of interference and prepotence in Panama, Central America, Angola, and Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the commander in chief called for the capable fulfillment of the reorganization tasks and, at the same time, the strengthening of the MININT's skills and efficiency with the spirit of work, dedication, confidence, and responsibility which is unfolding throughout the entire country.

Fidel Castro Inaugurates Matanzas Airport

FL2609010389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has inaugurated this afternoon in Matanzas the first international airport built by the revolution in the fatherland.

[Begin Castro recording] We made all the calculations, plans. Then, we immediately proceeded to making the contracts. In particular, we selected the work force that would be able to carry out this construction feat.

We chose the date of 25 September 1989 as the date that the airport would be ready. Therefore, it was a great challenge. This is the precise date on which the winter tourist season begins. The greatest number of foreign tourists travels to our country during this time. I repeat, all these factors were what determined the date of 25 September of this year as the date to have the airport ready.

The plan has been completed with mathematical precision, with the precision of a good watch. This did not happen by chance. I think this is a fruit of the new times, new concepts, new construction organization, new work spirit. I think it is because of the organization of the brigade construction workers, and especially, because of the organization of the contingent construction workers. We had already seen what the workers of the Sixth Congress contingent were capable of doing. We did not doubt that they would be able to fulfill this plan.

All of the Sixth Congress contingent is not here. Part of that contingent came here to work on this project. Another part of it stayed in the capital building installations, especially one very sophisticated project which is the velodrome for the Pan-American Games. As a matter of fact, they have also made a lot of progress on that project. They have also pledged to finish that velodrome by 26 July of next year. [applause] [end recording]

Commentary Questions Aims of U.S. Drug Drive

PA2509154789 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 89

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The rumors came first. Then came the pompous launching of the antidrug plan. Now, in an open display of its meddling, the United States is planning to expand its military presence in Latin America and the Caribbean under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking.

On 18 September U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney announced a project granting the U.S. Armed Forces the upper hand in the fight against drugs and relegating Latin American military men to a second category.

Cheney said that the United States can offer military and economic aid, training, and operational support to drug-producing countries in Latin America. We could thus say that Latin America is in the Pentagon's sight.

Foreign plans aside, the truth is that nothing is yet known about a project that the U.S. Government is drafting—if it is doing so at all—to ensure that the United States will cease being the world's largest consumer and will find an efficient way to ensure that 20 million of its citizens stop using drugs on a daily basis.

While the drug war is threatening to end once and for all the little calmness that still remains in certain Latin American countries such as Colombia, comparisons leave any interlocutor astonished. The monetary value of drug trafficking has surpassed that of the international oil trade and is second only to revenues produced by the arms trade, says UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. This top official's statement is contained in a report he submitted before the UN General Assembly. His statement adds that this is a mortifying fact that shows to what extent humanity is involved in the trade of degradation and death.

Based on such overwhelming reasoning, any concern is valid. However, the deployment of U.S. troops to Latin American countries has another motive. In this regard, some people are already casting much doubt on this controversial concern over fighting drug trafficking.

Recently we cited an article on this topic published by the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, in which journalist Mario Rivera Guzman stated that the United States is not fighting drug trafficking because it is moved by internal need, but to expand its markets. EL DIA added that by dealing blows to the Andean mafia, Washington seeks to [word indistinct] large bourgeois segments that are fighting over revenues of their second biggest national industry after the military industry.

If this is true, it cannot be denied that the government of President Bush is acting skillfully, because it is portraying military intervention in the Andes area as a moralistic action for the benefit of humanity, and not as it really is: a war to expand markets.

This thesis deserves to be taken into account, and even more so when military intervention is already under way.

Commentary Views Carter's Nicaraguan Visit

PA2409152689 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Sep 89

["Our America" Commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The visit to Nicaragua as observers by former U.S. President James Carter and former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin are part of the preparations for the February 1990 upcoming elections. At the same time, this visit makes obvious the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front wish to guarantee a clean electoral process.

During their stay in Nicaragua, both Carter and Alfonsin had the full cooperation of the government to visit any region of the country, and they could also verify the freedom the opposition had in conducting their political activities.

There is so much freedom that the UNO, National Opposition Unity, candidate Violeta Chamorro had no problems traveling to the United States to look for money for her electoral campaign, which she is conducting with Virgilio Godoy as her vice presidential candidate.

Carter's visit to Nicaragua and the method by which the United States will deliver the opposition a little over $3 million, are the elements that attract the U.S. press the most.

Various forces in the northern country are desperately looking for channels to support UNO financially. UNO will soon be receiving vehicles and office equipment in addition to training for its party representatives to work in the electoral tables.

Washington is trying to figure out how to deliver all its assistance through the so-called National Endowement for Democracy, NED, an organization linked with the Central Intelligence Agency on matters of covert financing to conduct destabilizing activities overseas.

Meanwhile, Nicaragua focuses fully and seriously on the upcoming elections, thus fulfilling the agreement signed at the Central American presidential summit held in Tela, but the White House wants to use this flexibility to decisively exert influence in favor of UNO.

In this way, we observe the extensive publicity the U.S. press has given the Carter observation team. This team plays an important role but will not decide the final results of the elections because that is for the people to decide.

The tactics of the George Bush administration seem to support UNO by all possible means, by preventing the demobilization of the Nicaraguan mercenaries who are acting as a pressure factor for the elections. The U.S. support includes exaggerating the charges raised by the opposition about the alleged Sandinist failure to comply with the accords approved in the national dialogue.

What is left is to discover is what the U.S. attitude will be in case its friends lose next February's electoral battle. Will the United States then try the Panamanian variation and claim the elections were fraudulent when they were actually clean elections? Time will tell.

Green Path President Orlando Polo Detained

PA2609033789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2234 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Orlando Polo, president of the Green Path [Sendero Verde] Cuban ecology movement (illegal) was detained once again on 22 September, according to information released today in Havana by dissident sources.

According to the same sources, Polo had been detained for several hours a month ago—on 21 August—and that same day, his organization's main offices were occupied by police.

Since the first arrest, the dissident demanded Green Path's legal recognition and the return of their offices.

PRC Ambassador Holds Press Conference

FL2609013789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] On 1 October the People's Republic of China will mark the 40th anniversary of its founding. For the occasion, the embassy of that country in Havana has held a press conference. It was hosted by Chinese Ambassador Tang Yonggui, who speaking about the relations between his country and Cuba, termed them as very fruitful and cooperative.

The Chinese diplomat recalled that Cuba was the first Latin American country that established diplomatic relations with the people's republic in the distant date of 1949.

With the regard to the current amount of trade relations, he said it amounts to $490 million.

Tang Yonggui also spoke about the recent events in Beijing and other Chinese cities. He referred to the hostile acts of the United States and to his country's position. [sentence as heard]

Contract Signed With Hungarian Enterprise

FL2509135889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The Cuban Enterprise for Importing Vehicles and Transportation Equipment, Transimport, and the Icarus and (Hungary Mudexport) Enterprises of Hungary have signed a contract for the delivery of material for the manufacturing of Icarus buses. This pertains to the supplies that will be shipped during the first half of 1990. This contract reflects a 20-percent increase over the 1989 price and a 40-percent increase over the price of the current 5-year period as a result of systematic increases.

It must be said that the Cuban enterprise was obligated to accept this new and exorbitant price under conditions that were practically an ultimatum because the Hungarian enterprise warned that there were no other options. Enterprise officials said that if the contract was not signed at that moment, they would not be able to guarantee delivery of the supplies required by the Cuban automotive industry for production during the first half of 1990.

In regard to this matter, it is necessary to reflect on a few things. As is known, Cuba is currently waging a resolute fight to concretely solve the problems of urban transportation. Leaders from the highest level of the Communist Party of Cuba and the government, as well as workers from this sector, including the manufacturers of Cuban buses, have united in this effort. In addition, during the 5-year period, Cuba has stabilized the prices of products it exports to Hungary even though its costs have increased, primarily because of world inflation.

It would not be untrue to say that, currently, trade relations with Hungary are far from what the Cubans consider to be a just relationship between a developed socialist country and another country, which is also socialist but from the Third World, and as a result is less developed. It seems inconsistent and strange to us, in view of this situation, to discuss the development of mutually beneficial trade when, in truth, it is based on prices imposed by unequal trade which is detrimental to less-developed countries.

Cubans feel that foreign trade should not be dictating policy. On the contrary, foreign trade should be subordinate to a fraternal policy toward the peoples that are less favored in their development. Otherwise, how can one discuss mutual benefit when the underdeveloped countries are forced to sell their raw materials, which cost them sweat and suffering, at prices lower than those of the world market and, in turn, buy the machinery manufactured at large automated factories at the high prices of the world market?

Our trade with Hungary, especially in reference to the buses, demonstrates this characteristic. Cuba will have to provide more tons of sugar and other products for each bus. This is the reality we are confronting.

Commentary Criticizes Menem for Military Pardons

PA2509224589 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 89

["Our America" commentary by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] A few days ago, Argentine President Carlos Menem announced the first phase of a so-called solution to the military problem. He stated that he will pardon military personnel who are being tried for human rights violations. Menem said: We are going to pardon those who are standing trial at present during this first phase. Later on, we will see what can be done with those who have already been sentenced. In this manner, Menem disregarded the continual criticism on the subject that has come from human rights organizations, political parties, and other national organizations.

The presidential measure will, consequently, allow 16 generals and 2 admirals who are being tried for human rights violations during the military regimes, to walk the Argentine streets in freedom soon and, of course, to again plot against state power.

In addition, approximately 100 lower-ranking officers who have pending trials for participating in the insurrections led by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin and Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico during 1987 and 1988 will also benefit from the presidential measures.

The president said that the cases of military council commanders who have already been sentenced for ordering the repression during the military dictatorships will be decided later on. Thus, soon Buenos Aires residents will probably stumble over former General Jorge Videla at a local church. He is a fervent Catholic, but one that did not hesitate to order the cruelest and harshest repression ever remembered in the country. Also, a chic Buenos Aires cafe will probably be used again by former Admiral Eduardo Massera as a meeting place. Massera enjoys talking politics very much, but this also did not hinder him from ordering the most horrible torture of persons arrested at the Army's Superior Mechanics school.

Many Argentinians will undoubtably tremble about the terrible possibility that former generals such as Guillermo Suarez Mason may be released. Suarez was extradited from the United States last year and processed for the kidnapping and deaths of 170 persons, extortion, and theft. It is timely to recall that Suarez Mason was the former commander of the I Army Corps that controlled the military and security forces in the country's most populated areas; more than half of the country's 30 million inhabitants live in the zone under his command. In this zone alone, 42 clandestine arrest centers operated from 1975 to 1983, and probably most of the 30,000 Argentinians that have disappeared since then, passed through these centers.

The presidential pardon will also benefit many Argentine officers and hundreds of subordinates who formed the paramilitary bands that murdered right and left. With all this in mind, we would have to ask if the citizens are not paying a price that is too steep for what the president had called measures to heal old and stupid wounds.

Mexican Fisheries Secretary Arrives

FL2609022489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Trade and exchange relations that are established with various countries of the world are important to our development. On this occasion, Havana is hosting the yearly meeting to discuss the cooperation agreements between Cuba and Mexico.

[Begin recording] [Maria de los Angeles Moreno, Mexican secretary of fisheries, identified by caption] We are thinking about the possibility of exchanging fish species, as well as a revision that will permit better techniques for catching lobster, like you have here in Cuba. We are also looking into other areas, for example oyster cultivation which we could have in Mexico. [end recording]

The main exchange areas emphasize [word indistinct] projects, the catching of porgy and shark, as well as scientific-technical development. However, you will ask what the concrete benefit of this cooperation will be for our population.

[Begin recording] [Jorge Fernandez Cuervo-Vincent, minister of fishing industry, identified by caption] Well, we catch sawfish, perch, porgy, etc which are destined for consumption.

[Unidentified reporter] In what area?

[Fernandez Cuervo] Basically, the fish goes to the child care centers and to the hospitals. [end recording]

Various press agencies have reported the attempts to change the exchange between Cuba and Mexico, especially in the fishing area.

[Begin recording] [Moreno] Cuba is the only country with which we have an agreement of this nature. This is due to our proximity and because we share certain zones. These are natural concerns. However, once they are analyzed within the context of the availability of these species of mutual interest, we can see that there is no harm. We can see that this does not diminish the fishing potential for Mexican fishermen, and that the quota the the Cuban fishermen are attaining is perfectly compatible with our fishing quota. [end recording]

This meeting is scheduled to end with the signing of a final agreement in which the path for cooperation will be better outlined, as well as new ways for the fishing trade between Cuba and Mexico.

200 More Internationalists Return From Angola

FL2509175789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] More than 200 Cuban internationalists arrived early this morning from the People's Republic of Angola [PRA]. The victorious combatants all wear the Cuba-PRA Victory Medal; 170 also wear the same medal, second class; 50 of them wear the same medal first class; 40 wear the Distinguished Service Medal, and 11 of them wear the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal. [sentence as heard] One of the combatants proudly wears the Calixto Garcia Medal.

On behalf of the people grateful for the successful fulfillment of this mission, the combatants were received at the airport by Faustino Perez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba; Brigade General Rigoberto Sanchez Valladares of the Interior Ministry; and Revolutionary Armed Forces Colonel Jose M. Martinez Olivera.

* Ross Leal on Preparations for CTC Congress

32480216 Havana GRANMA in Spanish 30 Aug 89 p 2

[Interview with Pedro Ross Leal, PCC (Communist Party of Cuba) Central Committee secretary, by Emilio del Barrio Menendez, on 29 August; place not given]

[Text] Yesterday, as I was talking with Pedro Ross, secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and chairman of the Organizing Committee for the 16th

Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), regarding the prime event of Cuban workers that will take place from 24 to 28 January of next year, he made the following observation: "The Congress will not be held in the future; it began its sessions some time ago."

Perhaps he made that statement due to the bad habit people have of narrowing events to certain dates. Ross went into more detail for me:

"To give you an idea of this assertion, I can say that yesterday, for example, at Antillana de Acero, what I regard as the culminating stage of the 16th Congress began: the process of discussing the basic document at all workplaces. That document, with the additions derived from the workers' debates, will become the Central Report.

"I attribute the greatest importance to this step, because the objective being pursued is to transfer the analysis of each issue to the specific place where it is discussed so that the workers and union leaders can contribute ideas, adopt measures to solve the problems that arise within their sphere of influence, and look to the future with new ideas.

"One of them, for example, is to eradicate the rather widespread practice of waiting for solutions to be handed down from above, when in the workshop, cafeteria, or hospital there are conditions, resources, and possibilities for solving problems."

[GRANMA] Ross, based on what you say I get the impression that these assemblies, and ultimately the work of the Congress, have to do with the process of rectification that is taking place in the country under the guidance of the Party and of Fidel. Is that true?

[Ross] Precisely, because on the one hand, what we are trying to do is assess what has been rectified within the worker movement, and on the other hand, the most important objective in my view is to lend continuity to this process, which is not just related to a particular problem, but to all the affairs of society. Ideas, measures, and decisions will arise out of the grassroots debates. If they are applied everywhere, they will lend continuity to the rectification, which in practice amounts to improving production, cutting costs, enhancing quality, improving labor and technical discipline, and seeking better ways of meeting people's needs more and more fully.

Rectification is an eternal process of improvement undertaken by mankind in which all spheres of action participate consciously in the construction of a society of human ideals as lofty as those of socialism. And we would like to contribute to that with the work of the Congress.

The debates on the basic document, to the extent that they coincide with that idea, will serve as a guide for immediate action in each worker collective with respect to their specific problems, whatever their nature. If the process takes place as we anticipate, they will make the document a living, palpable, creative work. That is the fundamental objective of the discussions that began yesterday.

[GRANMA] On many occasions I have seen worker meetings that are held for specific purposes move without transition to the analysis of very general, abstract concepts, and the proposals end up resembling those of poorly run production and service assemblies. How can we avoid that now?

[Ross] To prevent that from happening, the union leaders, some 300,000 of them at all levels, have discussed the Draft Central Report (the basic document is a summary of it) previously, in the same spirit that should prevail among the working masses. That allows us to ensure that the assemblies are properly run, and that the analyses are directed toward the specific issues of each place rather than philosophical discussions of general matters.

In the discussions in the trade union leadership bodies of the grassroots organizations prior to the analysis by the masses, these principles have been carried out to the utmost; the emphasis has been placed on the problems that affect production, on the need to mobilize potential and encourage the workers to solve subjective and even objective problems—there are already a lot of examples of that—on the development of a true culture of quality, on the conservation of material and human resources, on the reduction of payrolls....

Matters having to do with discipline, wage and labor policy, and worker participation in the economic struggle are among the most thoroughly debated issues. Nothing abstract or general has been discussed. This is what I have seen in the dozens and dozens of meetings I have had with union leaders at the grassroots, municipal, and provincial levels.

Personally, I am very hopeful about this grassroots assembly process, because I feel that the worker movement will emerge much stronger. This means that the workers will make themselves heard increasingly in the battle for economic development, and that the union organizations will have increased authority.

The union leader is an activist of the Revolution in its most important sphere, production. Therefore, he must play his role properly with regard to the workers and management: Vigorous action must be taken to defend the Revolution against management that does not behave properly in compliance with its duties with respect to production, services, and all other aspects.

Through our daily deeds and attitudes, we must change the image that some union sections have as mere appendages of management. We must support good work with all our might and confront bad work and deficiencies, by management as well as by bad workers, with complete morality and authority.

[GRANMA] Once this important step is concluded, how will preparations for the Congress proceed?

[Ross] Rather than preparations, I would prefer to speak in terms of the continued sessions of the Congress—each grassroots assembly is a session of it—once the discussion of the basic documents at workplaces has concluded.

For example, on 23 September in Cienfuegos, the first Provincial Conference will be held—the last one will take place in Havana on 16 and 17 December—and work will proceed in the same spirit, that is, analyzing, discussing, searching for solutions to the specific problems of each territory in question. They are not all the same; Havana has certain problems, for example, and Ciego de Avila has others.

At these provincial meetings, the discussions will also become a living, creative work. That's why I told you at the beginning of our conversation that the 16th Congress of the CTC began quite a while ago, and will end on 28 January 1990.

Haiti

Presidential Election Planned for Oct 90

FL2509160589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, on the morning of Saturday 23 September received the members of the management council of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP], who officially submitted to him the electoral agenda and calendar which they formulated in a fully independent manner. This meeting took place in the presence of the ministers of justice and information and coordination. The interim commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces was also present.

This is a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination issued on Saturday 23 September 1989.

After that, we received a joint communique from the Ministry of Information and Coordination and the Ministry of Justice. Here is what this joint communique says:

The government of the Republic has published the draft electoral agenda and calendar submitted to the president of the military government, Lt Gen Prosper Avril, by the members of the CEP. The electoral agenda and calendar are as follows:

From October 1989 to December 1989, the CEP is going to establish its central office; the Departmental Electoral Bureaus, BED's; the Communal Electoral Bureaus, BEC's; the Local Electoral Bureaus, BEL's.

From January 1990 to March 1990, a census will be taken of the electorate and the voters will be registered.

On 8 April 1990, elections for the members of the Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections [Casec] and elections for magistrates will be held. These elections will be held only in three geographical departments of Haiti on 8 April 1990.

On 15 April 1990, Casec members and magistrates will be elected in three more geographical departments of Haiti.

On 22 April 1990, Casec members and magistrates will be elected in the final three geographical departments of Haiti.

On 8 July 1990, the first round of the legislative elections for deputies and senators will be held. These elections will be held in only five geographical departments of Haiti on 8 July.

On 22 July 1990, another first round of elections for deputies and senators will be held in the remaining four geographical departments of Haiti.

On 5 August 1990, runoff elections for deputies and senators will be held in all nine geographical departments of Haiti.

On 17 October 1990, the first round of the presidential elections will be held.

On 11 November 1990, the runoff election for president will be held.

The publication of this calendar, as per the procedure announced earlier, is an important step in the realization of the democratic process the government of the Republic has set back in motion. All measures have already been taken to guarantee security and to ensure that there is a peaceful transfer of power, and a peaceful transition to democracy.

This joint Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Information communique is signed by Justice Minister Augustin Romain Ceme and Information Minister Mrs Rosemarie Nazon.

Nationwide Strike To Protest IMF Measures

FL2509171089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Some 32 organizations have called for a 24-hour strike for next Wednesday [27 September]. These people's and union organizations and political parties say that they have mobilized over the crisis of the high cost of living and the repressive system. They have therefore decided to go on strike for 24 hours on Wednesday 27 September. They are asking the government to annul its decree on the contract with the International Monetary Fund which is sucking the people's blood. They also say that as an illegal government, the government has no legitimacy and no right to make commitments in the name of Haiti.

They are also asking that the government lower the price of cooking oil, flour, sugar, cement, soap, and all other

essential commodities so the Haitian people can catch their breath. They also want the government to stop mistreating drivers and issuing improper traffic tickets. They also complain that all the streets and roads in the capital and the provinces are a mess.

They want the government to stop repressing the Haitian people; stop the death squads that are sowing terror and insecurity; cut the salaries of the bigshots and with this money increase those of enlisted men, school teachers, and minor government employees; and lower taxes to allow merchants and industrialists to increase the salaries of laborers and other employees in the private sector.

They ask all sectors in the nation's nine geographical departments to rise up and protest the high cost of living and insecurity.

Chamber of Commerce Memorandum on IMF

FL2509192089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has, as promised, presented to the Haitian Government and people a memorandum on the agreement between the Haitian Government and the IMF in a press release issued on 31 August 1989.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry says its only reason for doing this is to promote and defend the national interests.

The Chamber of Commerce says that anyone who thinks that the public finances could be in good shape after the nation's economy has been in such bad shape for a long time, must be dreaming.

Let's stop dreaming and establish a budget in keeping with the national economy's real capacity. To increase taxes and duties is to take away means from the productive sector and to give to the sector that brings the nation nothing except expenditures in the spheres of education and health care.

A truly responsible government should be committed to seeing how it can bring about the well-being of the population it serves and must daily make a greater effort to do this. However, the measures the government has just adopted are not heading in that direction at all. On the contrary, they are forcing the have-nots to squeeze blood from a turnip and put a brake on the nation's economy. Therefore, the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry cannot be in favor of these measures.

Is the government, by increasing the tax on imported articles by another 30 percent, trying to say that it acknowledges and accepts the fact that the gourde (?has lost) its value vis-a-vis the dollar? Or did it take this measure in order to increase its income?

There is no explanation for the decision to increase the costs of telephone service, flour, cement, or wheat bran. It is scandalous to have doubled the price of a sack of wheat bran because it is the small peasant farmers who raise pigs. On the contrary, the government should have contributed to helping the sack of wheat bran sell cheaply.

These increases make no sense (?considering) all the waste going on at the Minoterie [the national flour mill], Ciment d'Haiti [Haiti's cement plant], Teleco [the national telephone company], etc. Sixty percent of the budgets of these enterprises go to pay salaries. These things must be corrected, so that these commercial enterprises can once again become profitable.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry thinks that these economic measures taken by the government, which are only a facade, will not bring the government the desired resources. On the contrary, the measures only serve to encourage contraband, especially the contraband along the border, where Haiti is going to become an extension of the Dominican market.

What is being undertaken is going to result in the annihilation of industry, agriculture, and all productive sectors in general in Haiti. In the last analysis, the government coffers will not have one red cent coming into them.

The problem at present is how to increase the government's resources. The solution is to properly apply already existing laws and properly manage government affairs. The state coffers will remain empty even if taxes are increased if government property is not well managed and administered.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry continues: Therefore, in order for things to change in the best interests of the nation, the government must play the role of a moral authority that it should never have renounced. Contraband in all its forms remains the principal cause of the nation's catastrophic economic situation. Fighting this scourge, with all the crooked wheeling and dealing that goes along with it, should be the country's priority.

Contraband goes on at the Port-au-Prince airport too, when big boxes are let through without being taxed on the pretext that they are baggage accompanying passengers.

The small wharfs for coastal trade (?in) the provinces constitute a big problem. The government (?considers) them ports open to overseas trade, whereas they are not at all prepared for such a role.

The laissez-faire attitude of government authorities, together with the complicity that exists in connection with contraband, are the reason the government cannot make any money and the country's production has plunged downward. Out of $300 million worth of illegal imports, the government would lose approximately $60 million in unpaid customs duties, to say nothing of the TCA [a value-added tax], which could come to approximately the same amount.

Minoterie, Teleco, EDH [Electricite d'Haiti, the national power company], and Ciment d'Haiti made over $33 million in profits in 1985. Today these same enterprises, which yesterday served to stabilize the government's budget, are operating in the red. They showed a deficit of more than $16 million for the period covering only the last 3 months. Thus, for the year, which has four such periods, the deficit will reach $64 million. These figures show clearly the lack of competency and honesty of the people administering government property. These people must not look upon this property as a charitable institution that exists only to distribute money right and left.

Considering that the salaries paid by these enterprises account for 60 percent of the businesses total expenditures, should'not all salaries over $2,000 per month be cut? All such measures would permit the Haitian Government to bring in some $140 million.

The government should seek to put the rest of the administration in order after redressing the autonomous enterprises. Out of the 40,000 government employees, a mere 20 percent accounts for 60 percent of the salary budget. By making serious efforts to establish discipline and set things in order, the government would have some $180 million that could be used to get things moving in Haiti, to create jobs, and give new impetus to the economy. By doing so, the government would (?once again aquire) the confidence to negotiate with the sectors that provide it with aid, without these sectors regarding it as a baby in diapers. The Haitian people would trust the authorities if they did things clearly and openly. The problem of the gourde vis-a-vis the dollar would be solved by all of this.

Finally, the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry reminds all of the need for dialogue with all the economic sectors (?that are) concerned and that wish to contribute the fruits of their reflections and their practical experience to the finding of a concerted solution to the Haitian people's problems.

Max Bourjolly Interviewed After Release

FL2509190089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] No 2 man [Max Bourjolly] was arrested last Friday, taken to court several times, and was released at noon yesterday. He granted one of our reporters an interview yesterday afternoon, following his release.

[Begin Bourjolly recording] My conditions while in prison were as good as possible in Haiti because the prison resembles the country. The prison is as underdeveloped as the rest of the country. [passage omitted] The prisoners showed great solidarity with me. [passage omitted] There was great joy upon my departure, just as there was great consternation upon my arrival. I noticed both this consternation and joy among the members of the Armed Forces, too.

As you know, and according to my bodyguard, Comrade Herard, at 0100 a commando comprised of men from the Thomassin outpost, Petionville troops, members of the Presidential Guard, and men from the Anti-Gang Brigade came to my house to actually kidnap me!

They surrounded the house, jumped over the wall, entered the premises, and captured my bodyguard. They made him put up his hands and asked him to give them the key to the house so they could get inside. They also prevented him from making any noise loudly because they did not want me to hear them. This was a completely secret operation!

Since he did not have the key to the house, they were unable to get inside. Thus, they weren't able to claim that I was killed during an exchange of gunfire.

Finally, with a gun to his head, they made him go over the wall and took him to prison. Then they called me and told me they had arrested my bodyguard. That's how I found out about it.

The next morning, when I went down to find out what was happening, they told me they were arresting me for illegal possession of weapons. At that point, I told them the nation's constitution authorized me to possess a weapon for self-defense, within the perimeters of my property. They said no, that there was a decree dated 23 May that said differently.

I told them, however, that the decree they were talking about is, first of all, unconstitutional and second, that the decree has never been published in LE MONITEUR [official gazette]. Furthermore, the commanding officer in Petionville didn't even have LE MONITEUR. [passage omitted] He didn't have a copy of LE MONITEUR with the decree in it. He had only a photocopy (?of the decree). [passage omitted]

Furthermore, I can tell you that there are Americans as well as Haitian citizens whom I personally know, who have been arrested and have been found to have heavy-caliber weapons in their possession, who got off with a mere fine. This was quickly covered up, because they felt these people must not be humiliated, or a big fuss made over them. [end recording]

The PUCH No 1 man, Rene Theodore, held a news conference 2 hours prior to Bourjolly's release. He said the government was trying to divert the people's attention from the IMF matter, in an attempt to get the population to forget about the matter so that it could be put over better. [Reporter] Raymond Clerge was present at the news conference.

[Clerge] The PUCH said at a news conference at PUCH headquarters on the Rue Champ de Mars on 21 September, that the arrest of Max Bourjolly is a maneuver by the current government to divert the Haitian people's attention from the bitter IMF contract. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] Friends, they can do in our people through such IMF agreements by borrowing money without any way to pay it back. Such agreements mean lending more and more, so they can then take over the country through its economy.

Friends, we are facing a very big responsibility. We either agree to allow our people's poverty to be aggravated and allow Haiti to continue to be a country that no country in the world respects, or we take measures to struggle to really see our country progess, our people's living conditions change, and to have Haiti receive the respect due from the world.

Now, this is not the kind of disposition the government is taking. The United Nations and everyone who is sensitive and sincerely wants to see Haiti develop and progress condemn this kind of agreement that the government has made with the IMF. [end recording]

Theodore said Max Bourjolly's imprisonment constitutes revenge on the part of the government because PUCH was the first to denounce the agreement with the IMF and all the serious dangers it entails for Haiti. Theodore said that the current government is a provisional government, which has no right to get Haiti into unlimited debt without a miminal proper program. Nor does it have a right to take legal measures (?before) taking measures aimed at ensuring the security and freedom that the Haitian people have been asking for since 1986.

Theodore said that after some 4 years of ephemeral governments, only a government of national coalition with a minimal program can effect the transition to democracy in Haiti. The current Haitian government, however, is an autocracy that is seeking to find any pretext to claim there are disorders, so that it can stay in power for life. [passage omitted]

[Begin Theodore recording] [Passage omitted] We have information that leads us to believe that this is a repetition of the operation that resulted in the murder of Gregory Delpe. [passage omitted]

We have also learned that a new lieutenant had been sent to Thomassin. Once the Max Bourjolly incident was over, this new lieutenant was recalled and the former lieutenant sent back to Thomassin. Was this an officer sent expressly for this special operation? They are trying to turn our officers into criminals! Well, no, they must not be allowed to get away with this! [end recording]

Theodore said, further, that the PUCH leaders have permits to carry a weapon. Although Max Bourjolly had an Uzi inside his house, this weapon never went beyond the boundaries of his property.

Bourjolly never had a permit for the Uzi. PUCH is aware of the fact that this is a violation. The sanction for this violation is a fine of up to $5,000 gourdes. However, what astonished them was to see the government put out a special edition of LE MONITEUR, that bears the date 1 June but was put out on 20 September, in which the government inserted a decree increasing the sanction to a fine of up to 75,000 gourdes and 10 years imprisonment.

Finally, Theodore said it was not too late for the government to revise its position and take the proper legal measures to prove that it government is not a malevolent government.

New Military Department Commanders Named

FL2509191189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by Port-de-Paix correspondent Theodore Megalos Axius]

[Excerpt] Major Saudrac Saintil began his duties as new commanding officer of the Military Department of the Northwest at Capois La Mort Barracks in Port-de-Paix on Thursday, 21 September. He replaces Major Hebert Valmond, who has been transferred.

Maj Valmond will be the commanding officer of the Military Department of the Southeast. [passage omitted]

Belize

Security Intelligence Service To Be Disbanded

FL2509154989 Bridgetown CANA in English 0900 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Sept 25, CANA—The three-week-old government of the People's United Party is moving swiftly to disband the Belize Security Intelligence Service [SIS] which it regards as a secret police outfit. The service has the responsibility to carry out any intelligence work on behalf of the government "and other duties that may have been assigned by the minister."

The Ministry of Home Affairs last week moved into the new headquarters of the SIS and all vehicles used by it have been grounded on orders from Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs George Price. The building reportedly contained sophisticated listening devises and an armory, although the previous government had said that the Security Intelligence Service was not going to be armed.

Only two days after taking office. Price reported discovering telephone and communication devices on his desk which were directly linked to a communication system in the U.S. Embassy, 50 miles away from Belmopan, in Belize City. Price had the devices removed from his office.

The government said its first order of business in parliament will be to rescind the SIS law.

El Salvador

Merino on Agreememt With FMLN, Armed Forces

PA2509221589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino stated today that the military aspects of the agreements that the government may sign with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] must be obeyed by the Armed Forces, even if they include troop reductions. According to the vice president, an effective cease-fire agreement with the FMLN must also include the control of violent actions by mass organizations in El Salvador. Merino made reference to the doubts that certain military command sectors have about the FMLN's proposal. He said that these doubts are present mainly because the rebels have not kept their public promises concerning military actions in the past. However, the official commented that, in the long run, a cease-fire agreement would lead to negotiations on important issues, such as military troop reductions, that must be accepted by the Armed Forces. Let us hear Vice President Merino:

[Begin recording] We cannot ignore the fact that the FMLN and even the previous government made promises that they never kept. The Armed Forces are a permanent institution and they have suffered from the noncompliance of agreements that were made by the previous government with the FMLN. Now, the lack of trust must be overcome with specific actions in the future. Here, we have something that must be clearly appreciated. The government is responsible for the dialogue process. The Armed Forces are part of the government; they are an institution. President Cristiani is the general commander of the Armed Forces. Thus, the Armed Forces' position is also included in President Cristiani's statements. [end recording]

According to Merino, commentaries that have been made by several military commanders are to be understood as commentaries outside any agreement that the government may reach with the rebels. On the same subject, the vice president also commented that it is necessary for the guerrillas to change their military behavior, as they have to show that they really want to start a progressive war de-escalation process.

[Begin Merino recording] The effectiveness and totality with which the FMLN stops hostilities; ceases its acts of sabotage against electricity, communications, and public transportation facilities; and stops the use of mines will determine the level of the Salvadoran Army's offensive actions. This is logical, as when there is no aggression, there can be no action to counter it. [end recording]

Merino said that the government proposal includes an agreement for the FMLN to drastically decrease street violence in El Salvador, such as the violence promoted by mass organizations recently.

[Begin Merino recording] Hostilities are not only those actions that include the use of miltary force, such as mines, bombs, and so on. They also include FMLN mass organization actions that are carried out mainly in San Salvador and are creating a certain degree of destabilization. It is a kind of urban terrorism, as these groups are distorting the right to protest or the right of expression. These organizations are no longer only carrying a message, but have started to destroy and damage private property and public transportation, and threaten the citizens' integrity. Thus, you see here a direct relationship which demands that the FMLN military actions and cease-fire must include urban actions, as well. A cease-fire must also include that the FMLN will not carry out offensive actions or actions by front groups in the cities that promote street disorder. [end recording]

During President Cristiani's 15-day-absence, Merino reported that he will work on the proposal that the government will present to the FMLN in San Jose, Costa Rica on 16 October, with an advisory commission formed by military officers, private businessmen, intellectuals, and political party leaders.

More on Possible Troop Reduction

PA2609012489 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] "If we have no armed conflict or hostilities, we must definitely reconsider the number of troops we have and keep only those needed to guarantee what the political Constitution orders."

This is what Defense and Public Security Minister Rafael Humberto Larios said to the press at the General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy.

The idea of troop reduction emerged as part of the peace proposals put forward by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. We, as an institution and as the Armed Forces, taking into account the resolve, seriousness, and formality with which the guerrillas put forward these ideas, would then need to evaluate and reconsider the number of troops, as a result of the guerrillas' honest and frank intentions.

However, Larios said that it is difficult to estimate and give a definite numerical reduction, but if it does take place, it would be by amounts that would not harm the Armed Forces, assuming that the Armed Forces can guarantee the missions and demands placed upon them by the country's Constitution, with the soldiers that might remain, following a possible troop reduction.

Gen Larios, when referring to whether U.S aid could interfere with the negotiations, said that in no way could this aid harm the dialogue process. At other times, talks were held while this aid was being received. This aid is the U.S. Administration's tacit recognition of the political and military attitude of the current government. Larios added that the aid has absolutely nothing to do with the talks. As an institution, we need to renew our equipment, receive training, and become more professional, and part of this aid is intended precisely for that.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Senate Vote on Aid

PA2509155889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Station Commentary: "The Wrong Voting"]

[Text] The U.S. senators have made a mistake. They had a great debate to [words indistinct] a sign showing their willingness to help support the Cristiani government. However, they voted in favor of continuing with the military aid [words indistinct]. They approved aid that will be invested in war, which we believe is not a sign of peace. There were two positions at the Senate: those who advocated that the aid be divided in three packages to continue the delivery of the last portion of the aid to the government amid the dialogue process, and those who wanted to give unconditional aid to Cristiani, a position basically defended by Christopher Dodd. Senator Dodd himself said this aid is allegedly to encourage Cristiani because he is accomplishing what the United States has been trying to accomplish in the past 10 years.

However, the U.S. senators made a mistake. They voted for the unconditional aid which actually encourages the military men and the hardliners in ARENA [Nationalistic Republican Alliance] who are blocking the political solution of the conflict and who unreasonably promote the continuation of the war. This is not a sign for the moderates. The voting for unconditional aid is interpreted by the fascists, the warmongering, the ARENA [words indistinct] as a blank check to continue with the adventure of war. This was the time for U.S. Democrats and Republicans to support with their voting the regional effort and the Salvadoran people's effort to attain peace in El Salvador.

The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has taken correct steps that express its willingness to help attain peace. However, it seems the U.S. senators are misinformed about events in El Salvador: the increase in human rights violations, the arrests, the bombings, the war parades, and the harassment of the press. In sum, these are war actions amid a national and international demand for negotiations to attain peace.

The U.S. senators made a mistake. War actions in El Salvador are contrary to the expectations of the Salvadoran people and clearly come from the [words indistinct], the ARENA hardliners. They are also from the U.S. senators who voted in favor of the unconditional aid. Therefore, the U.S. senators gave a sign [words indistinct] are encouraging the war with this blank check to the ARENA government.

Archbishop Says Democratic Image Deteriorating

PA2509223189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1733 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] San Salvador, 24 Sep (DPA)—San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, who recently returned from a 3-week tour of Europe and the United States, said today that in Europe, particularly in the FRG, there is the impression that the Salvadoran democratic process is deteriorating.

After his Sunday homily Rivera y Damas said that in these countries, the press and other sectors have the impression that there has been a setback in reform and that the achievements of the previous administration have either been lost or destroyed.

The pastor recognized that, in reality, the economic model that is being applied in the country favors a minority. Far from easing it, he stressed, this model is deepening the crisis.

Concerning the peace talks, the archbishop said that upon his return from the FRG and the United States, he found an atmosphere of hope "despite some disturbing events during the past week." The archbishop mentioned violent demonstrations and arrests among the disturbing events.

Rivera y Damas said that the hopes for peace stem from "the real possibilities created by the dialogue process that will continue in San Jose, Costa Rica."

The archbishop condemned the killing of an entire family in Conchagua, La Union Department, in the easternmost part of the country, and termed it a serious incident. "According to our sources," he said, "the perpetrators of such a dastardly crime had previously served in the Armed Forces."

Judge Releases 21 Labor Activists, Others Held

PA2509142989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] The First Criminal Court of El Salvador released 21 FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] members this afternoon and ordered the provisional arrest of 18 others, who are charged with sabotage.

According to the report released by the First Criminal Court, the court declared that of the 39 FENASTRAS members sent to that court by the national police as a result of the disturbances during the most recent FENASTRAS march, 21 of them, including four women, will be released, while the 18 others will remain under provisional arrest.

The court's resolution says that the arrests were ordered because the 18 workers admitted in their informal statements that they belong to FARN [Armed Forces of National Resistance] and that they set two buses on fire during the most recent FENASTRAS march. The criminal code describes these crimes as involvement in illegal associations and terrorism. Despite the court's ruling the FENASTRAS lawyers said they will continue the necessary procedures to attain the release of the other prisoners from Mariona Prison.

Urban Guerrillas Attack Treasury Policeman

PA2509204089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Medical sources from the Military Hospital have confirmed that Lieutenant Jose Candido Alfaro, who was shot this morning by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] urban guerrillas, is in critical condition. Official spokesmen said that the Treasury Police officer was the target of a machinegun attack at about 0530 while he was standing in front of his home in lane 2 of the Los Eliseos building. The authorities reported that the seriously wounded Lt Alfaro was taken to the Military Hospital, where he is undergoing surgery. In a telephone call, the FMLN urban guerrillas claimed credit for the attack on Alfaro, charging him with being a member of the Treasury Police military intelligence.

The urban guerrillas staged another attack in the [name indistinct] building on Bernal Avenue and San Antonio Street, where several Treasury policemen guarded the area. The military sources reported that in this attack, there was only material damage.

Honduras

Azcona Rejects Contra Refusal To Demobilize

PA2609041289 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Jose Azcona said yesterday the Nicaraguan contras are not in his country to refuse demobilization and that their leaders' statements "no longer interest me."

The president said that everything concerning the contra demobilization "is moving along, perhaps not as fast as we would like, but it is moving along. I strongly believe the Central American problem will be resolved and that all countries will enter a stage of democracy."

Azcona said: "The first UN observer mission has arrived, and a UN task force of about 700 unarmed people will be installed in Honduras."

When asked if the contras would be demobilized by February, Azcona said: "I believe so; perhaps this will occur; it very much depends on how things evolve inside Nicaragua. We, of course, do not accept the counterrevolutionary leaders' position (of resisting demobilization). They are not in a position to adopt that sort of attitude."

"They may take that attitude if they go to Nicaragua; there they can say they are not going to demobilize. That is quite different from abusing the sanctuary that to a certain point was used to protect their lives on purely humanitarian grounds. However, to say they are not going to demobilize is something very different, and I no longer care what they say," Azcona ended.

Deputies Travel to Cuba at Castro Invitation

PA2509171389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1831 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Five Honduran deputies left for Cuba today after receiving an invitation from Cuban President Fidel Castro to learn about the Caribbean island's social, economic, and political situation.

Congressional sources reported that the deputies are Mario Rene Palomo, Diogenes Cruz Garcia, Vicente Mejia Rodezno, David Emilio Lopez, and Thelma Iris de Funez.

Three delegations of Honduran politicians have visited Cuba this year at the invitation of the authorities of Cuba, which does not maintain diplomatic relations with the Tegucigalpa government.

Nicaragua

Editorial Says Bush Not Adapting to 'New Realities'

PA2509133289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Sep 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Bush and the Civic Contra"]

[Text] When Mr Bush took office, many people asked themselves if his administration were prepared to understand why his predecessor had failed with Nicaragua, and to change course. Bush inherited the defeat of an armed counterrevolution which for 8 years had been organized and financed by the president under whom he served as vice president. However, Bush also encountered an honorable solution to the problem—the demobilization plan—which the Central American presidents skillfully knitted together. Meanwhile, Nicaragua presented him with a change of scene by moving up the elections, which led to the assumption that the new president would be forced to test an original viewpoint in order to adapt to the new realities.

Nevertheless, having spent more than 8 months in office, Mr Bush has shown little or no imagination, and he seems destined to make the same errors that President Reagan made, offering the old policy in a new wrapping.

Such is the case with Bush's determination to make the collaborationist alliance UNO [National Opposition Union] a rented opposition or, for all practical purposes, a civic contra, by proposing to finance its election campaign with millions of dollars (an estimated $9 to $16 million) by means that violate the very laws of the United States.

The difference between Reagan and Bush can be summed up in this way: To minimize the domestic costs of his meddling, Reagan had to choose between "military aid and humanitarian aid," while Bush must choose between "covert aid (CIA) and overt aid (NED) [National Endowment for Democracy]." Bush has not noticed that the origins of Reagan's fiasco do not lie in formal issues, but in having made mercenary activities the essence of his foreign policy toward Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, the pro-American opposition has shown just as much—or more—shamelessness as the contras by giving up the little national autonomy it had and surrendering to Mr Bush's authoritarian sponsorship. The opposition has gone to such extremes that now that it no longer has excuses for alleging that the elections will not be clean, it has invented the idea that the elections will only be "impartial" if the United States "discreetly" finances and directs its campaign.

This anticipated recognition of the right wing's defeat at least has the merit of reminding the people that the civic contra is nothing but a U.S. Government front. In other words, what the opposition considers its greatest strength is in reality its leading source of discredit and the guarantee of its certain failure.

Ortega Says Shevardnadze To Visit 3-4 Oct

PA2509235989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Managua, 25 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today confirmed that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Nicaragua on 3 and 4 October.

The Nicaraguan leader told ACAN-EFE: "Shevardnadze's visit will take place within the framework of the bilateral relations that exist between Nicaragua and the Soviet Union."

According to other official sources, during his 2-day stay, Shevardnadze will meet with the "highest level" officials of the Sandinist government and will visit work centers.

Vice President Presents FSLN Draft Platform

PA2409183989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1604 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) draft government platform read at the FSLN National Convention in the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua by Vice President Sergio Ramirez—live]

[Text] Everything Will Be Better:

Throughout these years of struggle, trying to preserve and defend our sovereignty and independence and trying to conquer a firm and worthy peace, the FSLN has embodied the best values and traditions of our homeland, the values we inherited from Dirianguen, Cleto Ordonez, Jose Dolores Estrada, Benjamin Zeledon, Dario Sandino, Rigoberto Lopez, and Carlos Fonseca, the heroes and founders of our Republic.

The FSLN, leading the entire nation, has carried out one of the greatest deeds of contemporary history—it defeated imperialist aggression. The FSLN kept the country united in combat, work, and production. The FSLN faced the most difficult times with dedication and determination. The FSLN faced the effects of war, destruction, the economic blockade, and the financial boycott. The FSLN waged very important diplomatic battles skillfully and firmly.

The FSLN, leading all the Nicaraguan people, has defended and will continue to defend and increase the great social, democratic, and economic transformations it introduced.

The FSLN, leading all the Nicaraguan people, built and defended the mixed economy. For the first time in Nicaragua, that kind of economic system has been a reality since the triumph of the revolution. The FSLN has guaranteed the existence of various forms of private and mixed property, cooperatives, and the people's ownership sector [APP]. The FSLN democratized property and assigned it a social function.

The FSLN, leading all the Nicaraguan people, achieved democracy and has defended the full existence of political pluralism, which never existed prior to the revolution. The FSLN has defended everyone's right to organize and join political parties. The FSLN has defended the people's right to an opinion, to freedom of expression, to political participation, and to criticism. The FSLN has indefatigably promoted respect for human rights and religious beliefs.

For the first time in our history, the FSLN, leading all the Nicaraguan people, conquered our right to have a free and sovereign fatherland, a nonaligned country that is respected and admired throughout the world. In all international forums, Nicaragua's voice has been heard in defense of just relations between strong and weak countries.

With the triumph of the revolution, the FSLN, leading all the Nicaraguan people, developed and consolidated enormous social and economic transformations that changed unfair Nicaraguan structures forever. The FSLN gave land to the peasants through the agrarian reform system. The FSLN put bank loans at the service of all producers. The FSLN placed the country's natural resources in the hands of the people; health services, education, literacy, and housing programs reached everyone; the water and electrical systems reached everyone, as well. Despite the economic difficulties imposed on us, the country has continued to build and progress.

The FSLN, the party of the homeland's sovereignty, of great revolutionary transformations, and of democratic achievements, is the only party that can ensure total peace, stability, security, and true national reconciliation to all Nicaraguans and to all the country's groups. The FSLN is the only party that can ensure respectful and worthy relations with all the world's countries.

The FSLN now calls on all patriotic and good-willed Nicaraguans, me and women, urban and rural workers, artisans, small industrialists, farmers, businessmen, youths, students, technicians, and professionals to vote for the definitive consolidation of peace, social justice, democracy, and well-being. We call on all these people to vote for the FSLN, to vote for the future. Everything will be better.

Everything Will Be Better—Peace

Let us consolidate peace once and for all. We want to consolidate peace that will reach all Nicaraguan families equally and that will grant us peace and tranquillity in the future to work for our homeland's development and prosperity. That peace will include the return to Nicaragua of all those who want to join this national effort.

Only the FSLN's election triumph in the 25 February 1990 elections will bring stability, reconciliation, and unity to the Nicaraguan family, because the FSLN is the only party that can ensure full peace for democracy.

We will attain a firm and lasting peace based on respect for our status as a sovereign and free country through the process of negotiations that the Central American countries have opened and through respectful agreement with the U.S. Government.

Everything Will Be Better—Democracy

We will continue to consolidate the democratic process in Nicaragua to strengthen the full validity of political pluralism, which was an achievement of the revolution; state institutions and the executive, legislative, judicial, and electoral branches; public freedoms; respect for human, social, and individual freedoms; and the freedoms, guarantees, and rights of all Nicaraguans.

We will continue to build our participative democracy within the framework of a just and free society—a democracy that the revolution has made possible and is based on the right to vote, granting of legal status to political parties, labor unions, and community associations; and the freedom of religion, speech, and mobilization that never existed in the past in our fatherland.

We will guarantee the permanence of democracy as a system that will guarantee future national political coexistence. After the elections, the other political parties will be called upon by the Sandinist National Liberation Front to assume their role as constructive opposition and to help strengthen democratic institutions.

Everything Will Be Better—Mixed Economy:

We will continue to strenghten the mixed economy in all its forms of property ownership—area owned by the people, cooperative property, community property, and private property. Each will be duly protected by law. We will reach a consensus among the government, businesses, and workers to ensure that common effort will lead to a growth in production.

We will work together for the stabilization and growth of the economy at an average yearly rate of 5 percent. Above all, our goal will be to overcome the consequences of war. We will stop inflation, stabilize prices, support the growth of production, significantly increase wages, create more jobs in the countryside and cities, improve the availability of supplies; provide more means of transportation; more and better highways and roads, schools, and health centers; more electricity and potable water services; and more sports centers and popular recreation centers, and build and repair houses.

We will all increase the production of what we consume to provide food to more people and upgrade the well-being of families and also increase exports. We will first aim to reach previous levels and then incorporate new export products to obtain more foreign currency. Our goal will be to increase annual exports by 12 percent.

We will promote an effective regional and local development policy through economic and administrative

decentralization by using the municipality as our example, because its autonomy is an achievement of the revolution.

We will use economic resources now spent on war for production, roads, schools, and health centers; keep our budget properly financed and balanced; reduce bureaucratic expenditures and increase revenues through a fair taxation policy that will prevent evasion and increase tax collection while defending the rights of consumers.

We will have an exchange rate that will favor exports and help substitute for imports and an interest rate policy that will promote production and savings. We will give priority to the transformation of national industry through a process of reactivation and rehabilitation that will guarantee the permanence of profitable companies that will produce basic and exportable goods and make intensive use of the country's natural resources and labor force. Effective cooperation between industry and agriculture will be a goal of the next few years.

We will promote the development of key investment projects in the areas of electricity, agriculture, agro-industry, industry, fishing, mining, and lumber, and food storage. We will give incentives to small short-term projects and investments to ensure the revival of already installed production activities.

We will use the Law on Foreign Investments as an instrument for national development to complete and strengthen the efforts of the country's public and private investors. We will promote joint investment with the use of public and private capital in areas of national interest. Fiscal policy will favor reinvestment of revenues in projects that will upgrade the standard of living for workers. Special emphasis will be given to home building and other kinds of construction of social interest.

We will start an international crusade to support the program of economic stabilization to ensure that the broadening of foreign cooperation will efficiently help the reconstruction of the country. This will include efforts to gain the support of international financial organizations.

We will continue a campaign—with a joint effort by the revolutionary government, labor unions, and the organized people—against vices of Somozist times, such as bureaucracy, squandering resources, and corruption within the state and in companies.

Everything Will Be Better—Peasants and Agrarian Reform, Agricultural Development:

We will guarantee land property rights to all small-, medium-, and large-sized producers who are productively and efficiently exploiting them. We will strenthen agricultural and agro-industrial industries owned by the people.

We will quickly finish the process to deliver land titles to all those individual peasants and the cooperatives who have land and who still have not received land titles. We will guarantee that free land is provided to new individual owners and new cooperatives so that 25,000 more peasant families throughout the country will be covered by the agrarian reform. With this delivery of land titles that will be completed within the next few years, there will not be a single peasant in Nicaragua without land. We will promote and strengthen the cooperative movement and the various peasants associations as the fundamental pillars of the country's economy. We will do this by promoting productive and social development programs, providing machinery and equipment, seeds, and by providing technical and organizational training to peasants. We will continue assisting cooperatives and small and medium individual producers by giving them preferential loans granted by banks with the assurance that the revolution will never permit that land to be confiscated from those who make the land produce.

We will incorporate peasants and the rural population in impoverished sectors into the agricultural and agro-industrial development plans and projects. In addition, we will rehabilitate all agricultural areas affected by war. We will promote the overall strengthening of agricultural and agro-industrial production as one of the main points of reactivation and economic development. We will increase the annual production of export products by 10 percent through overall rehabilitation and development projects that will benefit the public sector, cooperatives, and the private sector. We will also encourage growth and diversification of nontraditional export products, and the massive production of food. We will ensure the increase in meat and milk production through programs to support cattlemen, seeking to improve the feeding, sanitation, genetic development, breeding, and reproduction of livestock. We will support the efficient free trade of these products. We will strengthen scientific research and technological transfer centers to improve productivity.

We will ensure the preservation of the environment and the protection and correct use of our natural resources. We will protect soils and forests from erosion. We will ensure that reforestation, marine resources, and water sources are protected. We will develop irrigation systems. Everything will be better in terms of the supplies as well as the storage of products. We will continue to ensure the free trade of basic grains and all products produced by peasants. As for the basic grains, we will continue ensuring basic prices to producers. We will strengthen the role of ENABAS [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] as the stabilizer of prices. ENABAS will also expand its storage, drying, and cleaning services at storage centers, giving preference to producers who have less opportunity to get to the local markets. We will construct new ENABAS centers in Leon, Chinandega, Quilali, Jalapa, Nueva Guinea, Teustepe, and Pantasma.

We will expand by 600 the ENABAS distribution centers throughout the country to offer consumers staples at lower prices. This will be done with the participation of already established grocers and small businessmen. We

will also expand the supply network through commissariats and peasants' stores by creating 300 additional stores. We will promote the organization of cooperatives and consumer associations. We will continue protecting legally established market vendors and shopkeepers and will continue struggling resolutely against monopolies and speculation while controlling prices, the quality of products and their weights. Everything will be better.

Everything Will Be Better—City Workers and Peasants

We will continue promoting the free organization of the labor movement in the city and the countryside. A new labor code will be drafted to consolidate the rights the working class has attained through the revolution. Along this same line, a law that will ensure the workers' participation in enterprises will also be drafted. We will continue promoting and protecting the signing of collective agreements. We will reduce unemployment by supporting small and medium enterprises, by recovering the land devastated by the war, and by establishing a special employment fund at municipal and community levels. The demobilized, refugees, displaced persons, and the repatriated will have job opportunities.

We will devote ourselves to the improvement and expansion of technical and professional training of workers so that skilled workers become one of the fundamental bases for the country's economic and social development over the next few years. We will continue promoting the movement of innovators and volunteers, who are the workers' vanguard. We will continue promoting productivity, efficiency, quality, and compliance with production standards. We will ensure a salaries policy expressly linked to the workers' efforts for the economic recovery of enterprises, ensuring higher revenues and greater job satisfaction. We will make an effort to improve salaries and the technical skills of state workers. The Civil Service Law will protect stability at work and professional training.

Everything Will Be Better—Craftsmen and Small Businessmen

We will continue helping craftsmen and small businessmen with special loans and fiscal policies and by supplying the necessary elements for production, such as raw materials as well as technical assistance. We will provide support for the marketing of their products.

Everything Will Be Better—The Youths

We will take advantage of peace, which thousands of youths made possible through their efforts, sacrifices, and the blood they shed on the battlefields, to offer all Nicaraguan youths a chance for a new life full of hope, and prospects at work and at school for individual improvement and recreation. We will ensure preferential opportunities to work to youths who have completed their Military Patriotic Service, and they will also receive special benefits, such as scholarships, land to work, land for housing, and free access to urban transportation and to recreation centers. These measures should be efficiently implemented.

We will promote employment programs and professional and technical training programs for urban and rural working youths. We will ensure technical and university education for the most needy and most intelligent youths from all over the country. We will also grant scholarships so that some youths can study abroad.

Preparatory studies will continue opening the doors of higher education to young workers, peasants, and soldiers. We will make sure young peasants continue to benefit from the agrarian reform land delivery programs. We will also make sure they share the benefits of the various cooperatives.

We will promote youth participation in mass education, culture, arts, and sports programs by sponsoring and recognizing those youths who stand out as builders, artists, and athletes.

We will promote sex education programs in schools and the media. We will continue strengthening our youth's international solidarity with all the world's noble and fair causes.

Everything Will Be Better—Women

We will continue struggling for the full emancipation of women and for their participation without discrimination in the country's economic, political, and social life. We will promote equal job opportunites, technical training, professional training, and equal access to leadership posts for women. We will also continue to promote the right of women to organize.

We will continue to revise and abide by the current laws that benefit women. We will also promulgate new laws ensuring effective measures against the mistreatment and rape of women and children. We will promote laws against sexual blackmail and abuse in the work place and the denigrating use of women in advertising.

We will promote programs and campaigns for family planning and sex education. In the new labor code, we will introduce effective laws eliminating all forms of job and wage discrimination against women. We will reevalute traditionally female activities, and we will introduce new laws to secure the rights of pregnant women or nursing women, as well as prenatal and postpartum subsidies. The right of pregnant women to education will also be protected.

We will make sure our agrariam reform programs grant women access to land individually and as members of cooperatives based on equal rights and opportunities. These agrarian reform programs will also give women access to bank loans and to tools to make their lands produce.

We will struggle for the stability and unity of the Nicaraguan family. We will promote the couple's responsibility to share the education and care of children and the home's chores in order to contribute to the promotion of responsible parenthood.

Everything Will Be Better—Professionals and Technicians

We will continue the struggle, so professionals and technicians working in the various production and service sectors will have a better opportunity to get the technical training they need in organization and management methods. We will also support the improvement and training activities carried out by the country's labor organizations.

We will sponsor a labor policy for professionals and technicians that sets salaries based on qualifications—regardless of the work place, in the city or the country—and guarantees promotion to directorate and management posts based on efficiency and experience. We will make sure that initiatives are taken into consideration when planning and carrying out policies in the production centers. We will intensify our efforts to improve the evaluation, salaries, stability, and promotion of all the judicial branch members.

Everything Will be Better—The Infrastructure

We will strengthen the public transportation sector for passenger and cargo traffic, and we will grant priority status to the cooperatives for the delivery of new buses, trucks, pickups, and taxis through special loan programs to lower the fares and tariffs. Six hundred new vehicles will be delivered every year.

We will provide ongoing maintenance of our highway system, pave an additional 509 km of roads, and build an additional 1,800 km of access roads with the participation of the communities and the producers. We will also renovate the railroad and railroad stations and strengthen transportation through the great lake and rivers.

We will endeavor to protect the city of Managua against floods by stepping up reforestation programs, protecting the river basins, improving the ditches, and building additional ditches wherever necessary. We will begin a program to clean Lake Managua. We will strive to defend the port of Corinto from floods. San Juan del Sur's port installations will be expanded and a new pier will be built, and Port Sandino will be equipped to handle bulk cargo.

We will substantially increase the country's telephone network by doubling the number of automatic lines in Managua for a total of 76,500 lines; install 4,000 new automatic lines in Chontales and Rio San Juan, mainly benefiting Santo Domingo, La Libertad, Comalapa, Chiltepe, Acoyapa, Nueva Guinea, San Miguelito, and San Carlos; and install 4,000 new automatic lines in Carazo, Masaya, and Granada, mainly benefiting El Rosario, Santa Teresa, La Concepcion, Niquinohomo, Catarina, Tisma, Diria, and Diriomo.

We will continue to generate electricity vigorously to ensure that Nicaragua becomes independent in this area. Hydroelectric projects, which were postponed because of the war, will be resumed. We will continue to expand the production of geothermal energy by opening new plants in Hoyo de Monte Galan and San Jacinto.

We will develop electrification programs in small rural communities, farms, and progressive settlements in the cities that will benefit 30,000 new families throughout the country. By the end of the new period of the FSLN, 50 percent of the population will have electricity in their homes.

The preferential electricity rate for lower-income customers—a total of 150,000 at the moment—will be maintained. We will also build 315 km of electric lines for street lighting.

We will expand potable water service in Managua by digging new wells and installing new piping. We will definitely solve the critical water supply problem in cities such as Boaco, Matalgalpa, and Bluefields. Water service will also be upgraded and expanded in other cities and villages. The preferential rate for lower-income customers will also be maintained.

We will continue the water supply program in rural communities and small villages with the assistance of their residents. The municipalities will manage the water companies.

We will accelerate the work of community action programs in neighborhoods and municipalities to ensure that the democratic initiative and participation of organized residents—supported by the state and municipalities—will upgrade standards of living through projects bringing progress and well-being. Such projects include the maintenance and paving of streets and highways, street lighting, planting of trees and plants, building of children's parks, cultural and recreation centers, public libraries, and community gardens.

Everything Will be Better—Housing

We will start a program to build housing projects. We will hand over 6,000 new houses each year to lower-income families in various areas of the country and in agricultural production centers. We will provide incentives for the construction, improvement, and repair of houses through the sale of plots and materials at preferential prices, especially in progressive settlements and in the case of rural homes to benefit another 6,000 families.

Agricultural companies will be allowed to deduct from their income taxes money spent to build homes for workers. We will develop areas by building new homes for technicians and professionals through special programs within the national financial system.

Everything Will be Better—Health and Social Welfare

We will expand the campaign for the defense of children's lives by reducing the infant-mortality rate to 30

out of 1,000 by the end of the new period of the FSLN. We will continue to fight malnutrition and diarrhea. We will continue to eliminate childhood diseases with the assistance of the population, as we have managed to do with poliomyelitis, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, and measles.

We will upgrade programs for pregnant women and their pre- and post-natal care to reduce their mortality rate also. We will continue to improve hygienic conditions through campaigns involving the public participation. In this regard, we will give priority to the collection and disposal of trash in cities and villages. We will continue to build water treatment facilities and public toilets, also with the assistance of the communities.

We will increase the number of special programs to combat malaria, tuberculosis, tetanus, and dengue. We will maintain free direct medical services for patients, and we will improve substantially the provisioning, stabilization, and control of medicine prices. Medicine for children under age 5 and pregnant women will continue to be free.

We will complete the process of decentralizing the health-care system by increasing coverage and improving the quality of care, emphasizing the neighborhood and rural community doctor program, which is already under way, and by involving the people in this effort. We will improve the capacity of health centers and hospitals. The number of health centers in towns and health stations in the territories will be increased; existing hospitals will be remodeled and enlarged; and new hospitals will be built in Chinandega, Boaco, Granada, and Puerto Cabezas.

We will pay special attention to the training of medical specialists and paramedics and will continue promoting scientific undertakings as well as refresher courses and training programs for our doctors both in Nicaragua and abroad, thus facilitating their access to new medical techniques.

We remain determined to achieve better working conditions for health workers in terms of their salaries, job standing, job security, and the distribution of uniforms and shoes. We will continue expanding social security coverage to all workers in cities and rural areas by improving substantially their benefits, and we will give priority attention to retirees and pensioners by guaranteeing them dignified living conditions. We will promote a program to increase the number of CDI's [Industrial Development Centers] and child care centers as a means of cooperating with communities and businesses in cities and in rural areas. We will extend the Glass-of-Milk Program to 400,000 children in schools throughout the country, who will also be provided with additional food supplements.

We will carry out programs and campaigns to strengthen family stability and unity and to protect children. We will struggle against alcoholism, drug addiction, and prostitution, and protect children who have been abandoned or live in hazardous conditions.

Everything Will Be Better—War Victims

We will guarantee youths who have been maimed in the war the right to rehabilitation, education, professional training, job opportunities, and social benefits, while promoting the respect that our entire society owes them. We will broaden social services for the mothers, widows, and orphans of heroes and martyrs—particularly the pensions they are entitled to—health services, and housing. They will be given deeds, free of charge, for the homes they live in. We will provide war orphans with special programs that will secure their education and development. This program will cover war orphans as well as the children of counterrevolutionaries.

Everything Will Be Better—Education

We will ensure the education system's continued democratic openness and accessibility to all Nicaraguans. Public education at all levels will continue to be free, and we will continue to strengthen the patriotic values of education. We will continue the revolution's literacy effort by launching another nationwide literacy campaign to reduce the illiteracy rate to 6 percent.

Meanwhile, with the participation of youths, teachers, and the general public, we will broaden the possibility of a basic education for those who have been taught to read by taking adult education to all the peasant cooperatives.

We will implement a program for the rehabilitation and repair of schools, and the contruction of 1,000 classrooms annually with the help of municipalities, communities, and businesses. We will supply schools with desks at a rate of 100,000 annually, and we will provide an adequate supply of school materials. The supplying of text books and school materials for students will be prioritized.

We will broaden the coverage of preschool and basic education in accordance with the population's growth, so that all children will have access to at least a fourth-grade education, and we will strengthen high school education, especially in the areas of technical, farming, and industrial training.

Special education for retarded children will be broadened and strengthened. We will continue improving the quality of education and academic performance with the help of parents, teachers, and students. Distinguished teachers and students will receive incentives and distinction. We will strengthen the universities' autonomy by providing them with a law regarding the election of academic authorities, and we will ensure that universities become active in the country's economic and social life. Research will also be promoted at universities, thereby reaffirming their role of scientific and technological development.

We are determined to broaden training and professional programs for teachers, to reassess their jobs, and to

improve substantially their salaries. A general education law will be devised dealing with the teaching career.

Everything Will Be Better—Culture, Recreation, and Sports

We will continue ensuring unrestricted freedom of creation for writers and artists, and we will continue promoting their open participation in the establishment of cultural policies. We will promote the education and training of artists, supply materials for them, and exhibit and disseminate their work. We will continue the widespread publication of books by national authors and books on universal culture, and establish and develop public libraries.

We will continue strengthening and broadening the people's involvement as creators and recipients of culture and assisting the formation of artistic groups and organizations throughtout the country. The growth of popular culture councils and cultural programs in municipalities will be encouraged. We will guarantee the continued rescue and conservation of the nation's historic and cultural heritage, and we will also promote the Nicaraguan people's knowledge and enjoyment of universal culture.

We will promote mass participation in sports by strengthening sports organizations in municipalities and by building new fields and gymnasiums with the community's help. Cultural and sports education in public schools will be prioritized. We will also promote the construction of new recreation and tourism centers for the enjoyment of all Nicaraguans, especially the workers' families and youths.

Everything Will Be Better—The Atlantic Coast

We will support the autonomous governments in their effort to implement fully and perfect the autonomy law. During this period we will guarantee the establishment and consolidation of the autonomous governments in the Atlantic Coast regions.

We will guarantee that the communities' traditions and religious beliefs will be respected, that they will have the right to democratically elect their representatives, and that they will be issued land titles for their community lands. The Atlantic Coast family's reunification and the refugees' return to the country will b supported. We will support the autonomous government's efforts to increase the overall participation of the communities in the rational protection, use, and exploitation of national resources in the autonomous regions, thus guaranteeing that they will enjoy the benefits.

We will continue to sponsor strategic economic development projects such as the African palm, coconut, fish, mines, and lumber. We will also sponsor regional efforts to develop local projects such as subsistence fishing, small-scale mining, and traditional trade activities. We will continue to improve air and land transportation between the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts; and sea, river, and lake transportation —both concerning the number of boats, safe navigation systems, and the maintenance of waterways and access roads.

We will guarantee land transportation between Bluefields and Nueva Guinea, and we will guarantee telegraph and telephone communications. Television will be beamed to Bluefields, Puerto Cabezas, and all the neighboring communities with special programs in their own languages. We will perfect and standardize bilingual education and cultural programs, and we will resume the education programs in the autonomous regions' languages.

We will sponsor technical training and university programs, and we will prioritize scholarship programs within the country and abroad for outstanding students. We will support the creation of a cultural institute in the Atlantic Coast autonomous regions. We will continue to support the religious orders' and organizations' education, culture, and social work for the public. We will prepare programs for the reconstruction of houses, public offices, and services destroyed by the hurricane, and we will continue to support the rehabilitation of agriculture, fishing, and lumber industries, which were also affected by the hurricane.

Everything Will Be Better—Foreign Policy:

Nicaragua will continue to be a worthy and respected country in the international community based on our unyielding principles of sovereignty without concessions and international nonalignmnent.

We will continue to establish and strengthen worthy and respectful relations based on equality with all the countries of the world, regardless of their size or might, and without interference or attempts to attack or destabilize other countries. We will continue to demand that all forms of economic and financial blockades against Nicaragua cease.

At international forums, we will continue to struggle against all attempts of imperialist domination, apartheid, colonialism, and neocolonialism. We will continue to struggle for the peaceful solution of all conflicts, respect for countries' independence, the right to self-determination, and all peoples' right to a national identity. We will struggle for the respect of international law, legal order, and world peace, and for the establishment of a new international economic order that will promote fair trade relations and free poor countries from the burden of foreign debt.

Nicaragua will continue to strengthen its participation and leading role in the Nonaligned Movement. We will also struggle for our identification and unity with the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean. We will continue to struggle for peace and security in Central American and for the negotiated solution of war conflicts in area countries—with full respect for the peoples' rights. We will struggle for the development of social and economic cooperation programs with all neighboring countries.

We will conduct international activities to promote respect for human rights in Central America and other parts of the world. We will join efforts in the struggle against drug consumption and trafficking.

Everything Will Be Better—The Fatherland's Defense and the Nicaraguan People's Security:

We will make efforts to attain better levels of organization, professionalism, and technical specialization within the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] to guarantee the defense of our independence, and the integrity and inviolability of the fatherland's territory.

Our Army will always be ready to firmly reject foreign mercenaries and invaders who seek to disturb our peace and destroy the achievements of the people and their revolution. In times of peace we will have an exemplary Army much like the one we had in times of war. Its size will be adjusted to Nicaragua's defense and security needs. The EPS will strive to promote all necessary economic and social development programs and support and defend the people in cases of natural disasters.

We will continue to deepen the popular and patriotic nature of our Armed Forces, and intensify their civic education to ensure that they are never turned against the people's interests, national dignity, and the republic's constitution and law.

We will continue to develop the doctrine of the fatherland's defense based on the organized participation of all the people. We will reduce the number of youths summoned to join the Patriotic Military Service [SMP], adjusting it to peace time needs. We will ensure that while the SMP remains alert to defend national sovereignty, it will continue to be an integral training ground for the benefit of youths, families, and society.

We will guarantee the safety and calm of all Nicaraguans by upgrading and strengthening the professional skills at the Interior Ministry [MINT], which will also continue to safeguard full respect for human and individual rights.

We will continue to strive to ensure that the professional work of the Sandinist Police and their treatment and respect for the citizens continues to be exemplary. The Sandinist Police will continue to make efforts to prevent and fight crime at all costs, solve pending cases, fight drug trafficking and consumption, and fight rustling. The protection of homes, highways, and recreation centers will continue be improved.

We will strive to ensure that officers, noncommissioned officers, and combatants of the EPS and and the MINT achieve dignified living standards for their relatives and themselves in keeping with their professional qualifications.

Everything Will Be Better—Our Heroes and Martyrs:

We will preserve the memory of all those who have fallen in the struggle for the liberation of Nicaragua, and against imperialist aggression, to ensure that their sacrifices and heroism will live eternally in the hearts and minds of all Nicaragua—that they will be examples for new generations. Thanks to them, today we have a fatherland and a revolution; we have peace and are in control of our own fate. Thanks to them we are able to say with great pride: Everything will be better. [applause]

Chamorro, Godoy Return From Miami, Caracas

PA2509144989 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] Upon her arrival back in Managua on 21 September after her first international tour, presidential candidate Violeta B. de Chamorro said: "All Nicaraguans in exile are anxious to return to the country and are awaiting a general amnesty from Daniel Ortega to do so with more assurances."

Chamorro arrived aboard an executive plane provided by Venezuelan President Perez and talked to domestic and foreign journalists who were waiting for her at the international airport.

Chamorro, who met with Nicaraguan exiles in Miami and President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas, said that Perez showed much interest in "Nicaragua's electoral situation and problems."

"We have the strong backing of President Perez, the Venezuelan media, and the Venezuelan people, who were very kind to us. They want Nicaragua's well-being and democracy," said the presidential candidate of UNO [National Opposition Union].

Chamorro said that Blanquita de Perez, wife of the Venezuelan president, donated two wheelchairs to Nicaragua.

Vice presidential candidate Dr Virgilio Godoy and campaign director Engineer Antonio Lacayo accompanied Chamorro.

When questioned at the international airport, Dr Virgilio Godoy said that the opposition candidates' tour to Miami and Venezuela "was really excellent."

He said that they had met with the Nicaraguan community in both places and had been told that "they are willing to help the opposition in various ways to establish democracy in Nicaragua."

Godoy added that they had met with President Perez and discussed Nicaragua's future and possible ways to help our country.

Dr Virgilio Godoy said that President Perez told him that Venezuela is willing to donate all the indelible ink needed on election day and more than ½ million gallons of gasoline "to the Supreme Electoral Council, which is supposed to share it with the political parties throughout the campaign."

Godoy insisted that the tour was "a resounding success because he found great understanding and solidarity everywhere."

"President Perez was very kind to provide a private jet to fly us directly from Caracas to Managua as an expression of his appreciation for all Nicaraguans, particularly for Chamorro who is his long-time friend." Godoy added.

When asked about possible U.S. congressional economic aid for the Nicaraguan elections, Godoy said that that country's Legislative Branch had already decided that it has no plans to finance UNO.

I do not know whether this new announcement [not further explained] aims to find new ways to help the electoral process that will take place throughout the country, instead of the opposition's campaign," the vice presidential candidate added.

Opposition Challenges Ortega to Public Debate

PA2509201589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1915 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 25 Sep (REUTER)—Less than 24 hours after having been elected the Sandinist presidential candidate, Daniel Ortega was challenged to participate in a televised debate with Erick Ramirez, Social Christian opposition presidential candidate.

During a news conference, Ramirez said: "I want to talk with him and ask him why he accepted the presidential candidacy after 10 years of heading the disastrous Sandinist administration."

Ortega did not comment, but a spokesman of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) Propaganda Office said that Ortega would not agree to "a challenge that seeks free publicity."

Meanwhile, the FSLN spokesman added that Ortega would surely attend a public debate with Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, National Opposition Union (UNO) presidential candidate. UNO is made up of 14 political parties.

Ortega and his running mate, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez, were registered in the Supreme Electoral Council today after having been nominated by the FSLN on Sunday, 24 September.

Indian Leaders Abandon Armed Struggle

PA2509211589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1845 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Sep (REUTER)—Anti-Sandinist Indian leaders officially abandoned armed struggle here today to be able to return to Nicaragua and support Violeta Chamorro, the opposition's candidate at the February presidential elections.

YATAMA [Organization of Creoles and Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians] political leader Julian Holmes stated: "We have struggled for the past 8 years and now we want to return to civilian life." YATAMA groups Nicaraguan Atlantic coast Indians that oppose the Sandinist government.

The statement was made after Holmes, and the military leaders Wiclief Diego and Raul Tobias, signed a document agreeing to completely abandon the armed struggle and, in exchange, received safe conduct to Nicaragua. The document was signed at the Nicaraguan consulate in Tegucigalpa.

However, YATAMA military directorate commander Diego stated: "The section that has abandoned the struggle is the political section; the military section has not yet abandoned it."

Diego added: "Our forces have still not surrendered. We are going to talk to the Sandinists to see what points we can negotiate concerning the military section." Diego is also a Nicaraguan Resistance member.

Tobias and Holmes had plans to travel to Managua today. Diego will first go to Guatemala where he is to meet with anti-Sandinist Indian leaders Steadman Fagoth and Brooklyn Rivera, and together return to their country.

Holmes said they will request in Managua an extension of the deadline to register political parties so they can create an Indian political organization. The deadline expires on 25 September.

YATAMA will support Chamorro, the National Opposition Unity (UNO) presidential candidate, and hopes to win in the elections 10 deputy seats and the Indian mayorships. The Indians total approximately 300,000 throughout the country, according to Diego.

Holmes said that approximately 32,000 Indians exiled in Honduras awaited instructions from their leaders, who will travel to Managua, to decide whether they will return to Nicaragua or not. Holmes finally pointed out: "I suppose we will recommend massive and general support for the elections."

Bishops on Elections, People's Voting Rights

PA2509230589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1533 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 24 Sep (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Catholic Church today urged the citizenry to register and vote in the 25 February 1990 elections, "thus cooperating in the construction of peace."

The Nicaraguan bishops today issued a document that contains pastoral guidance on the election period, and they recommend that the people elect "authorities that can lead Nicaragua to authentic political, economic, moral, and social development in which Christ's message is respected."

Electoral registration will be carried out during the first four Sundays in October.

The document—signed by Monsignor Carlos Sancti, secretary of the Episcopal Conference and bishop of Matagalpa—advises Christians not to vote for "ideologies that are based on hate and advocate division of the family and society; or for hedonistic and violent attitudes that are contrary to Christian morals."

The bishops say that people have a responsibility to vote and no one can be forced to cast his ballot "against his people to benefit a specific group."

Referring to the government's Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), with which they have been in conflict on many occasions, the church leaders say that political parties "exist for the people and not for themselves, or to dominate the rest of the citizenry."

The bishops warn that everyone's political ideas and preferences must be respected, adding that "otherwise it would be an expression of repression and lack of tolerance; and anyone acting like this is immature, acts in bad faith, and has little love for Nicaragua."

The Nicaraguan Catholic Church leaders also say that political propaganda should be the means to convey ideas and messages, and "not to offend or slander to insult an opponent."

Panama

Noriega Discusses Need for 'Practical Government'

PA2509194089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1736 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Sep (DPA)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega today commented on the need to "invent" a new "practical government" system for Panama different from the "made in the USA pseudo-democratic" model.

During an interview aired today by the local Cadena Millonaria radio station, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander said that "efforts are being made to improve the Panamanian Government system, which does not fall under any Latin American model, but meets the practical need to solve Panamanian problems."

He maintained that in view of the "difficult situation and the U.S. aggression," the new formula to rule Panama must "take into account the interests of all the people."

Noriega said that the recent selection of 510 representatives of the people's power constitutes the birth of a new system whose main goal is to come up with "practical, quick, smooth, and effective solutions" to national problems.

When asked whether this new model includes granting him special powers as head of government, the top military man said "that should be thought over because we must not improvise. That is a valid concern; that is a good question."

The FDP commander added that "improvising has led us to make many mistakes in Panama."

Government Releases Opposition Youth Leader

PA2509130389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2004 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Sep (DPA)—A spokesman for the opposition Authentic Liberal Party [PLA] has announced that Enrique Zarak, a PLA member, was released by Panamanian authorities today after being detained for 30 hours.

Zarak was arrested on the morning of 22 September as he was having lunch in a restaurant in the Panamanian capital, where he had distributed pamphlets with information about the hunger strike being carried out by former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara.

The Panamanian Human Rights Committee, on learning of the PLA member's arrest, had reported the incident to international human rights organizations.

Rodriguez Receives 'Warm Welcome' in Chitre

PA2609001089 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Sep 89 pp 1-A, 2-A, 8-A

[By Luis E. Quintero-Barrera]

[Text] Chitre, 24 Sep—On 23 September, thousands of excited Herrera Province natives and residents of nearby central provinces gave a warm welcome to Panamanian Provisional President Eng Francisco Antonio Rodriguez Poveda at Plaza de la Bandera. They applauded his vigorous statements, especially when he pointed out that "all Panamanians are willing to crush and bury irreconcilable differences and will unyieldingly consolidate the nationalist struggle. My main task is to bring about a conciliation in the Republic and strengthen national unity."

Commenting on the most recent U.S. economic sanctions against Panama, Eng Rodriguez said: "We will face the aggression without faltering, regardless of whether it is political, economic, or anything else." Rodriguez stressed the unity that exists among Panamanians as he received expressions of sympathy and support from residents of Herrera Province, which he was visiting for the second time. Rodriguez thanked the crowd for their welcome on behalf of his mother, wife, and children.

Most of his ministers and directors of autonomous institutions were present at the tribute, which was also attended by "special guest" former President Manuel Solis Palma. His presence prompted Eng Rodriguez to say that only a nationalist and revolutionary process as the one begun by General Torrijos could allow genuine and well-trained members of the middle and lower

classes to hold important positions within the government and even the Presidency.

He pointed out that they exemplify the kind of opportunities that the revolutionary process—which was led by Omar Torrijos Herrera yesterday and Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega Moreno today—has given to poor people. Gen Noriega heads this group of professional military men who are prepared to hold important positions within the FDP staff and military zones.

"These facts indicate we are living in a time of transformations, which should continue because they are for the good of the people and the community in general," said the Panamanian president, who was accompanied by his mother, Chitre-born Jilma Poveda de Rodriguez, and his two sisters, Jilma R. de Ortega and Rosario R. de Valderrama. Rodriguez apologized for the absence of his wife and two daughters from this important meeting with so many friends, explaining that the absence was unavoidable.

In his speech before thousands of his countrymen gathered at Plaza de la Bandera, Rodriguez said: "Despite its political crisis, Panama still tolerates and respects other people's ideas. In this country, it is possible to talk and to preserve peace."

Rodriguez, 50, was welcomed at Chitre's Las Placetas Airport. A few minutes later he left his car to walk along Calle Abajo (Pescao Street), where he was acclaimed by those who had known him since childhood. There were fireworks, and hundreds of friends accompanied him along Herrera Avenue and Manuel Maria Correa Street until the crowd arrived at Plaza de la Bandera. Rodriguez, who was born in Ponuga, Parita District, Herrera Province, has many friends from his school days in Chitre. In addition, he has kept in touch with people he became acquainted with during his childhood, youth, and adult life. The walk through Chitre's streets enabled him to come closer for a brief time with the Herrera people.

Throughout his much-applauded speech, Francisco Rodriguez urged his audience to work with Panamanian responsibility for unity and solidarity to go on and overcome negative situations that threaten the nation. He said: "Now more than ever, I am prepared to fulfill the solemn oath I made when I was sworn in as provisional president of Panama."

Herrera Province Governor Fabio Perez' speech was followed by that of Euclides Delgado, who spoke on behalf of the province's farmers. He noted that Rodriguez is a farmer's son and thus knows the efforts farmers always have to make. He said: "We need economic assistance and support at this time of crisis and aggression. We Herrera Province producers are very happy to have a president from this province for the first time in history." Delgado concluded his brief speech saying: "Mr President, we hope the country will continue making progress under your administration, we pull out of the crisis, and the Panamanian people will benefit from this."

As a testimony of support and appreciation, the municipal governments of the seven Herrera Province districts, which were represented by each district's highest official and by students, delivered resolutions and gifts to Rodriguez. The people from Ocu gave him a hat he immediately wore; the people from Santa Maria gave him some drums to remind him of his youthful days when he used to enjoy drum-playing on the Santa Maria plains. The Las Minas neighbors gave him a handful of rice, the national flower, and a locally made guitar. The people from Chitre gave him the Chitre District shield mounted on a gold frame.

There was also a picnic at the residence of Governor Fabio Perez and his wife Alicia, in the town of Ponuga, near the Escota River, 2 km from the Pan-American Highway. All of the Rodriguez Poveda family's friends were present.

Visa Denial to Rights Activist Criticized

PA2509230389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Sep 89 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "What Would the United States Say?"]

[Text] Accommodating U.S. interests in Latin America once again, OAS spokesmen recently announced in Washington: "The provisional Panamanian Government has agreed to the visit of an OAS Human Rights Commission in November to investigate and obtain evidence on reports made by political groups opposed to the Panamanian Government on what those political groups regard as violations of human rights."

The results of the investigations to be conducted by that pseudo-human rights commission will surely comply with Washington's orders. We all know the United States has not given up on finding a pretext to justify an armed attack against Panama and its people.

We have recently noticed an intensification of Washington's maneuvers to eliminate the Panamanian people's resistance as soon as possible. A conference was held in Guatemala—under the leadership of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, who has been accused of mass murder against the Guatemalan population—with the participation of former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, another vulgar pawn of the U.S. State Department. This conference turned into a vulgar tribunal put together to accuse our country of the most violent electoral crimes.

In that regard, the author of this column participated in the second regular assembly of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission. This is a legitimate organization for

the defense of human rights of our people that is not identified with political interests and is not submissive to U.S. imperialism.

At this assembly, the organization's council of directors invited Mirna Perla de Anaya, general coordinator of the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central American (CODEHUCA), a staunch struggler and incorruptible woman who has made great sacrifices. She was to deliver a speech on the status of the troubled Central American area.

Much to the surprise of those of us who participated in the meeting, Anaya was denied a visa to enter our country. The reason for this decision is still unknown, despite our attempts to clarify it. This was an unwarranted action against a struggler with international prestige: In addition to her post as CODEHUCA director, our friend Mirna de Anaya is vice president of the International Federation of Individual Rights and a defender of human rights who has personally suffered the outrages of a government at the service of foreign interests, the Salvadoran Government.

In view of the measures adopted against Anaya, we must say the Panamanian Foreign Ministry has placed itself at the service of the country that is trying to isolate Panama diplomatically. We have no other alternative than noting this: When Foreign Ministry officials should act in defense of our national sovereignty and dignity, the first thing many of them ask is: What would the United States say? That is the sad reality!

Argentina

President Speaks to International Council

PY2509194789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1550 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Referring to the conflict with the United Kingdom in the South Atlantic, President Carlos Menem stressed here today that the Malvinas "are a friction point that disturbs relations with the Western system, not only for Argentina but for all of Latin America, which maintains solidarity with this cause."

In a speech to the Council on International Relations, a private group that studies world problems, Menem said: "We are relying on the United States as a key stepping stone on the road to overcoming the conflict."

He called on the United States "to embrace the cause of its brothers on the continent with the same strength and greatness it has repeatedly demonstrated in its short but intense history."

Referring to the United Kingdom, Menem affirmed: "We have made an open-handed gesture, seeking dialogue, and we expect a prompt equally positive response."

Turning to the foreign debt issue, President Menem reasserted that "it is a drain that is siphoning off resources needed for investment and development." Menem added: "Although our countries have pledged to honor the large debts we have contracted, the international trade system has not honored rules of free trade." He pointed out that "Argentines suffer from exclusions or from limitations placed on our exports" through customs barriers, subsidies, and other methods that curtail free competition.

Menem said that technological advances and world-scale problems equally affecting all nations "demand concerted and united responses to all problems."

The Argentine president said: "We must abandon purely national, regional, or hegemonic criteria, and recognize the need for planning common strategies to confront the world-scale dangers."

Menem later stressed that he came to the United States "to present the outlines of some ideas and to voice some concerns and hopes."

He noted that since he assumed power he has embarked on a task "to clean up throughly" the Argentine economy, and "to favor production over speculation and distortions of the financial market."

"Beyond ideological opposition and partisan rancor," he emphasized, "Argentina wants to take off in unity, and this consensus is needed by all Argentines to overcome the frustration of successive economic failures."

Talking about the international policy his government will implement, Menem said that "it will be practical and nonideological." He expressed his hope to attain "an adequate diplomatic solution" for the Malvinas Islands conflict Argentina maintains with the United Kingdom.

Menem finally stressed that this conflict "is a colonial throwback. No country is in a better position to understand the historical mandate to defend a nation's territorial integrity than the United States."

Menem Mediates Workers Movement Dispute

PY2509151589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 01129 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has urged union leaders to seek the unity of the workers movement, and proposed that a special and regular congress [as received] be held on 10 October 1989.

The union movement has been divided into two factions. Prior to the presidential mediation the two factions announced that they would hold separate congresses to elect new CGT [General Confederation of Labor] leaders.

The Argentine president decided to mediate to find a solution to the conflict which began at the end of July and which is now threatening to split the workers movement. The problems began because the union liaison board wants Saul Ubaldini to be replaced. This stand is rejected by other leaders, such as Lorenzo Miguel, who support Ubaldini's administration.

In his 8-point proposal, Menem has urged the leaders to seek unity and to support his socioeconomic plan.

Menem stated that the productive revolution demands the image, the creativity, the intelligence, and the work of responsible leaders. "The time of protest and conflict must yield to the time of proposal and commitment."

He added that "the workers who are organized in unions cannot reject this call. For this reason I propose that a single CGT congress be held on 10 October 1989." He concluded by saying: "I hope you will listen to me." [passage omitted]

Official Warns About Effects of Drug Trafficking

PY2509145789 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Sep 89 Second Section p 8

[Excerpt] Santa Fe—Social Action Secretary Ruben Cardozo has stated that "if we do not win the antidrug struggle it may soon jeopardize the stability of the current democratic system, just like recent events in Colombia."

He said that Health Minister Julio Corzo had decided to implement several measures, including "a reevaluation of the antidrug struggle policy, because the government wants to implement concrete proposals that will satisfy the people's demands."

Cardozo told the local press that Santa Fe Province—especially the southern zone—"is unfortunately the leader in drug trafficking in Argentina." He disclosed that in the past few months the confiscation of cocaine in Santa Fe "has increased by 114 percent while that of marijuana has increased by 300 percent." [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Departs for UN Assembly Meeting

PY2509155889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has departed for the United Nations where he will ask for international support for Bolivia's antidrug efforts and propose a coordinated antidrug plan.

This is Paz Zamora's first trip abroad since he assumed the Presidency, adding him to the list of several Bolivian presidents who have been to the United Nations. Jaime Paz is attending the United Nations General Assembly because he is convinced that he can use his presence to call international attention to issues of national interest.

Jaime Paz left for the United Nations with Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde and Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez. During his stay in New York, Paz and other Bolivian representatives are scheduled to meet with officials of the U.S. Government, the United Nations, and other international organizations.

President Jaime Paz is scheduled to deliver a speech at the United Nations on 28 September in which he will discuss several issues, including the foreign debt, poverty, drug trafficking, international peace, Bolivia's landlocked situation, and other topics.

The president will return to Bolivia on 29 September. While in New York, Jaime Paz will also meet with several presidents to discuss bilateral issues.

Ossio Sanjines Acting President

PY2509172789 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] While President Jaime Paz Zamora is abroad, Vice President Luis Ossio Sanjines will be acting president and will go to government house to deal with state affairs.

Bolivian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] sources have expressed their pleasure because a PDC member has assumed the Presidency.

Ossio Sanjines will be acting president until 29 September. During these few days, he intends to review some government programs. Ossio's schedule during his 1st day in office has not been disclosed but it was explained that he will summon some cabinet members to brief him on priority programs. Interior Minister Capobianco has been summoned to government house. As a member of the Special Antinarcotics Force, Capobianco will brief the acting president about the reorganization of the antidrug effort.

Luis Ossio Sanjines will also meet with members of the Political Council of the Patriotic Agreement to whom he will outline some administrative matters.

Brazil

Sarney Meets With President Bush in New York

PY2609013889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Relay from New York by Lourival Macedo]

[Text] President Jose Sarney met with his U.S. counterpart George Bush in New York. The U.S. President praised the role that Brazil has played in Latin American democratization. The meeting, held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in downtown New York, lasted 35 minutes, during which the presidents analyzed environmental issues, drugs, the international coffee accord, the foreign debt, and the improvement of bilateral relations.

President Sarney mentioned the need to continue with foreign debt negotiations in order to avoid a break between the end of his government and the beginning of the next one.

President George Bush wanted Brazil to reduce its coffee export quota to benefit Colombia, thus reducing drug production there. President Sarney, however, said that he would agree to negotiate on the international coffee accord if Brazilian export quotas were not further reduced.

Sarney said that Brazil has already cooperated through the previous coffee accord, in which Brazil reduced its export quota.

The two presidents said that they agree with the decision of Colombian President Virgilio Barco to fight the scourge of drug trafficking. President Sarney mentioned the Calha Norte Program that is being implemented in the Amazon region. Calha Norte is a preventive action program that Brazil has undertaken in order to prevent the spread of drug trafficking.

President Sarney said that President Bush praised Brazil's role in the democratization of Latin America.

[Begin Sarney recording] President Bush has emphasized the important role that Brazil has played in Latin American democratization. We also analyzed the enivironment, the drug issue, and the points of agreement in our speeches to the United Nations. I openly and clearly expressed to him that we feel some disappointment over the indifferent and delayed treatment of the foreign debt problem. [end recording]

Sarney said that U.S.-Brazilian relations improved after his meeting with President Bush in Tokyo in February

1989. The two presidents met in Paris during the bicentennial of the French Revolution in July as well. Both are scheduled to meet again in October, at the centennial of Costa Rican democracy.

President Sarney is now meeting with Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez at the Intercontinental Hotel. Shortly, Sarney will attend a banquet hosted by President Bush for heads of state.

President Addresses UN General Assembly

PY2509232689 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1405 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by President Jose Sarney to the UN General Assembly in New York—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ... Brazil's recognition to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. [passage omitted] A worrisome development is the vulnerable position into which we were driven by our foreign debt. Developing nations are being pressured to make adjustments that are not usually implemented by industrialized nations.

Budgets are being balanced at extremely high social costs, and at the cost of the state's bankruptcy. Salaries are being reduced to lower than survival levels. The legitimate aspirations of developing industries and the need for a balance of payments are being disregarded. The public sector is being ignored—especially the most important sectors, such as education and health.

The essential needs of debtor countries are being ignored. Only through accelerated growth will those nations be able to implement the necessary economic reforms to fulfill their commitments and to contribute, as in the past, to overall progress.

It is important to understand that it is impossible to grow when almost one-third of our domestic savings is paid abroad annually. It will be impossible to make many adjustments as long as this implies solving an equation that cannot now be balanced. It is time to admit that the remedy cited for the foreign debt has only improved the financial health of the creditors. For the debtors, this remedy has brought only recession and impoverishment. I repeat: It is time to adopt a strategy for the debtor countries' growth. Such a strategy will require a large reduction in the foreign debt and in the gross and net payments of resources abroad. That is the only way to obtain the necessary savings for development.

With great concern we are observing that the problem is being handled slowly and apathetically, and that its solution is being postponed.

Mr. President and delegates: We must also give priority to two other major issues: protection of the environment and the struggle against drug use and drug trafficking. Those matters will be increasingly more important. The first has to do with the survival of mankind and with the termination of life on earth. The latter has to do with living death, with forces opposed to life, with eliminating the human being; it especially affects young people, those in the prime of their lives.

Concern for the environment has become another reason for interdependence among nations. As inhabitants of the same planet, we should be bound in solidarity. The environmental issue, climatic changes, and the destruction of the ozone layer cannot and must not be discussed in a narrow manner, as if they were a North-South problem and as if the less-developed nations were affecting the world ecological balance by their irresponsible behavior. The real situation is quite different. The industrialized countries are responsible for most of the current pollution of the environment. The developing nations cannot accept, as a basis for new international relations, the concept that only they will be responsible for guaranteeing the planet's ecological balance.

To make the concept of ecologically sustained development valid, it will be necessary to extend it to the industrialized countries. We must determine whether it is possible, from the environmental standpoint, to sustain the standards of production and consumption attained by those countries. It is indispensable therefore, that there be a close association among all countries in the research and development of new technologies that use natural resources more efficiently and pollute the environment less. It will also be necessary to define clear obligations for the transfer of technology at a price not higher than the cost of development.

The relevance we attach to the environmental issue and to the Brazilian disposition to deal with it calmly and openly is clearly reflected in our interest in hosting the UN Environment and Development Conference in 1992. Nobody is more aware than Brazil of its bountiful, rich, and extraordinary natural resources. Its forests, fauna, and flora are assets that we ourselves firmly intend to preserve.

In the past when large colonialist companies from the rich world invaded the wild regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas and brutally ravaged them, Brazil stood up to preserve its natuaral resources. Our country did not agree to the operation of those companies in its territory; it banned their presence. In the 1960's the Hudson Institute thought of forming a gigantic lake that would have inundated the Amazon region. Brazil vetoed the idea, and the world can now turn its eyes on the Amazon region because the Brazilians have been determined to preserve it up until now—and they will preserve it for the future.

We are willing, as we have always been, to accept cooperation, but never impositions that might violate our sovereignty. With the implementation of the "Our Nature" program, we have already managed to reduce forest fires by nearly 40 percent in a single year. We banned the export of logs, and we refused to grant incentives to predatory projects. We also created the Environment Institute, bringing several entities into a

broad project of ecological protection. Approximately 8 million hectares of Brazilian territory have so far been placed in a status of permanent protection. Nearly 10 percent of the national territory has been set apart as habitat for indigenous populations, totaling 200,000 Indians.

On another front, Brazil is, with great concern, implementing a program against the illegal production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs. In 1988 we took an important step by implementing the Vienna Convention. The increasingly more serious effects of the problem now demand that this assembly urgently adopt effective measures of cooperation.

Brazil will not spare any effort to contribute, along with the countries that produce and consume drugs, as well as those used for transit, to the eradication, once and for all, of this serious threat to our society.

Our policy in this sector is energetic and preventive. Four years ago, within the framework of the Calha Norte Program in the Amazon region, we occupied and controlled our long borders to assist our local people and to keep out drug traffickers who are being sought in other countries. We are also controlling the trade in antecedent substances. We are fighting an all-out battle against drugs. [passage omitted]

No country or group of countries, no matter how great their might, can hope to resolve the current world crisis by themselves. With a broad spirit and without reservations, resentments, or hidden motivations, let us together address the crisis. This historical moment, at which the easing of ideological tensions offers such favorable conditions, may not be repeated. Let us together meet the challenge of transforming reality through the creative power of ideas. We invite everyone—and the great powers, first of all—to participate in this task. It is not too late to rescue the dream of peace and justice held by preceeding generations.

As I open the 44th session of the UN General Assembly, I wish to express a message of optimism and determination. This is the message of Brazilians, who have become masters of their own destiny under the democracy they built for themselves. Because Brazilians believe that their country is consolidating in the Americas as a new democracy by surmounting so many challenges, they express, through the voice of their president, a dream of peace and justice, which will exorcise fear and inspire hope.

As a politician and intellectual, I never thought poetry to be an intruder at this plenum. So, I close this address with the verses of Luiz de Camoes, a universal poet of the Portuguese language:

After a menacing storm,
With dark shadows and fearsome winds,
The morning brings serene daylight—
The hope of reaching port and salvation.

Thank you, very much.

Colombia

Deputy Reportedly Resigns Over U.S. Blacklist

PA2409153889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] There were more reactions to the issue of the visas. Deputy David Name Teran has resigned as President Virgilio Barco's representative before the Territorial Credit Institute's Directorate because his name was said to be on a so-called blacklist of parliamentarians without visas.

Name categorically denied that he is among the parliamentarians being denied access to the United States.

Plan To Install Radar on San Andres Viewed

PA2509164689 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia 0030 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yankee interventionism continues in Colombia. The White House and the Pentagon are now planning to install powerful radar equipment on San Andres Island. Under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking, this equipment will be set up at a very key place for the United States and thus enable it to gather a great amount of information on what is happening in Nicaragua, Panama, and of course also in Colombia, which has become the big headache for the Yankee empire.

Nicaragua will hold presidential elections in February, and the United States is planning to meddle in this democratic process of the Sandinist people by (?providing) information to participating right-wing political parties.

The George Bush administration has just approved a $9 million aid package for the presidential campaign of rightist Violeta de Chamorro. With the installation of this radar in San Andres Island, the United States aims to redouble air and sea surveillance over Nicaragua and Panama. This would increase agility and precision in the displacement of its warplanes and ships and also consolidate its economic boycott against these two Central American nations.

To the extent that the United States is able to successfully sabotage international economic and material aid headed for Nicaragua and Panama, these nations will experience greater domestic problems, a deepening of their economic crises, and an increase in the discontent of certain segments of the population toward their governments. In Panama's case this would clear the way for the right wing to take over the reins of power.

The United States is definitely refusing to abide by its commitment to return the Panama Canal to the Panamanians. It is making all the necessary adjustments to intervene more directly. The sole fact that the Colombian Island of San Andres was offered to install these

Yankee radars reflects the servility of the Colombian bourgeoisie toward Yankee interests.

This bourgeoisie lacks any patriotic feeling. It has been giving away our sovereignty to the United States piece by piece. The Barco administration is quickly beginning to resemble a puppet government at the service of the Yankees. In fact, the measures being adopted by the Barco government are prefabricated at the White House and Pentagon and channelled through the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

In view of this Yankee interventionist escalation in Colombia, we should all ask ourselves: Will we allow the United States to [words indistinct] in Colombia?

Military Intelligence Arrests Israeli Officers

PA2409025289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0112 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] In northern Bogota, military intelligence members today arrested two Israelis who said they are Colonel (Hegejam Seter) and Major (Eskenasi Nisim). The Israelis said they had been contracted by the Colombian Army, but the military authorities denied any connection with the two men who had bombs, priming tubes, and maps for carrying out attacks. Military intelligence is trying to determine the connections and motives of these alleged Israeli military officers.

Journalists Reportedly Linked to Drug Cartels

PA2409155789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0046 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 23 Sep (AFP)—The intelligence services of the Military Institutes Brigade [BIM] in Bogota released to AFP today a document that mentions the names of six Colombian journalists who have reportedly received money or who maintain links with drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, also known as the Mexican.

The journalists are Ivan Mejia Alvarez of the Grupo Radial Colombiano (GRC); Esteban Jaramillo, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, and Oscar Restrepo Perez of the privately owned RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] of Bogota; Jaime Ortiz Alvear of the Caracol Network of Bogota; and German Castro Caycedo, director of the "Special Correspondent" television program.

The names were found in several documents seized by the Army during a raid on a building in the center of Bogota, where financial offices of Rodriguez Gacha, one of the heads of the so-called Medellin Cartel, were located.

In a letter sent today to General Ramon Niebles, commander of the Army's 13th Brigade in Bogota, the Colombian Association of Sports Writers [Asociacion Colombiana de Redactores Deportivos—ACORD] asked that the names of the journalists mentioned in the seized documents be revealed.

Some initial reports had indicated that at least 20 journalists, mostly sports writers, were included in the documents, but the report to which AFP had access only mentions six.

The document states that Ivan Mejia Alvarez has "openly defended the interests of the criminal" and adds that "along with this commentator, other journalists, such as Esteban Jaramillo, have defended Rodriguez Gacha."

It also indicates that Mejia Alvarez and Jaramillo "control the management of the magazine of the Millonarios" (professional Colombian soccer team) and adds that "using fictitious names, they have cheered Rodriguez in the stadium."

The document states that Mejia Alvarez and Jaramillo coordinate "the handling of the image" of Rodriguez and that Rodriguez gave journalist Castro Caycedo a farm in Pacho (a municipality 40 km north of Bogota) "for having interviewed him on his program, 'Special Correspondent.'"

The report also mentions Enrique Munoz, business manager of the GRC, stating that "he has close ties with the Cali Cartel."

AFP spoke over the telephone with journalists Jaime Ortiz Alvear and Juan Carlos Gonzalez, who denied any links with Rodriguez Gacha and who said they are willing to be investigated.

However, AFP was unable to talk with Castro Caycedo, Oscar Restrepo Perez, and Ivan Mejia Alvarez, who, up to noon, could not be found in their offices.

Ortiz Alvear said he writes a column in the Millonarios' magazine, but he said he does it for free.

"I am ready to be investigated," Ortiz Alvear said.

"I can show you my income tax declarations so you can see how much I really have," he added.

Gonzalez expressed surprise about the report, stating: "I have no comment. I am surprised."

Esteban Jaramillo is today in Guayaquil, from where he will broadcast comments on Sunday's game between the Ecuadoran and Paraguayan soccer teams, which are disputing the right to go to the 1990 world championship in Italy.

Army Seizes 'Another' Rodriguez Gacha Estate

PA2409125289 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Sep 89 pp 1A, 8A

[Text] Army 13th Brigade soldiers, stationed in Cundinamarca Department, seized another huge cattle ranch owned by Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias "The Mexican." The soldiers seized the ranch called "La Freddy No 1" that was named for Freddy Rodriguez Celadas, "The Mexican's" son.

The estate seized yesterday is located in Puerto Chaguani, near the community of Cambao, in the western part of the department.

The Army established that the estate is subdivided into four ranches: Veracruz, Remolino, La Primavera, and La Quinta. The estate covers 10,000 hectares.

This Rodriguez Gacha property was managed by the firm, Union Comercial del Valle, S.A. The firm is one of 34 fake companies formed by the drug trafficker to run a large number of estates, houses, apartments, and vehicles.

The names of the paper companies were discoverd 3 weeks ago when the Army seized the Coordinadora Comercial's offices on the 7th floor of the Davivienda Building, in the heart of the international center of Bogota.

The estate was run by Pompilio Matiz, who is under arrest until a military penal judge decides the legal case. At the estate, the Army found a payroll list that covered workers on the four ranches. The payroll list included 46 peasants from the region and the total salaries paid ranged between 8 and 10 million pesos per month.

The lists indicated that two well-known veterinarians from Bogota took care of 5,300 animals. However, their names were not revealed.

As with the rest of "The Mexican's" properties, this estate is luxuriously equipped and has very comfortable accommodations. The wire fence posts are inscribed with the initials JGR, which stand for Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

The seizure of "La Freddy No 1" estate was ordered by a military judge, who based his order on documents confiscated at the Chihuahua de Pacho estate seized on 26 August.

Armed Forces Editorial on Fighting Drug Lords

PA2309171589 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Sep 89 p 12-A

[Text] The Colombian Armed Forces yesterday issued a strong statement against drug trafficking and said that they will continue the struggle to free the country of the scourge.

In an editorial published in the most recent issue of the Armed Forces' newspaper, the people are called on to remain alert around their block, neighborhood, and work sites, and to cooperate in the struggle against this crime.

The following is the text of the editorial:

It is no secret that our process of political and social training has been unfortunately violent. However, the intensity and degree of barbarism are currently reaching dramatic stages, especially because of the absence of moral factors that would prevent the armed struggle from overstepping the basic principles of compassion, mercy, and humanity. The drug traffickers are bent on showing the state and the people their power of destruction, without making any distinctions. They dynamite and burn buildings without caring about the innocent victims they may cause: children, women, old people, invalids; murdering, in a cowardly manner, people whose only weapons are those they work with, killing them for the crime of not yielding to their deadly intentions.

Therefore, we are facing the most monstrous and deadly of enemies, unsurpassed in evil and meanness. The government, its authorities, soldiers, and policemen are giving them an answer, and the whole nation fills us with courage and hope. The government's decision is very clear and there will be no power on earth that will make us stop until we have successfully completed the mission given us, a mission we will fulfill despite the costs, a mission we will carry out with all our military experience and the spiritual knowledge of being the true sentinels of Colombia.

How long can this situation last? It all depends on the authorities and community's degree of involvement, on their courage and determination to save the homeland. If each official or citizen were to become a guard at his office, his home, street, or block; if they train the people in the neighborhood to report immediately to the authorities; if they defend their legal rights—then the confrontation will be a short-lived one because the enemy is only supported by a group of common criminals without God or law, who by themselves are incapable of fighting face to face but who use the money they get from their dirty business to frighten society with the use of hired killers who attack in the darkness and run when they confront the slightest resistance.

The country's armed institution is, as always, at the vanguard of the struggle and the results of its action are proof of its firm determination to fulfill their mission despite the sacrifice. It advises the people of the real dimensions of this threat, with its authentic terrorist, immoral, cowardly, and criminal expression.

We are sure that the recent sacrifice made by renowned presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan, by Colonel Valdemar Franklin Quintero, Judge Ernesto Valencia Garcia, and other illustrious Colombians before them, as well as the sacrifice made by the many brave soldiers and policemen who have fallen victims to the hired guns and common criminals, will not be in vain. Their blood, like a luminous ray, will point the path to rescue the homeland from violence and barbarism.

Adjustments Plan To Face Coffee Crisis

PA2209163489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—The government will face the coffee crisis with readjustments in various government areas, Finance and Public Credit Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla has announced. Strict controls in the fiscal deficit and significant cuts in public investments

and operational expenses are included in the adjustment plan the government is drafting, the finance minister said. The raise in state workers salaries will be lower than anticipated due to the country's economic prospects. Moreover, the minister maintained that raising the domestic price of coffee is simply impossible in view of the current circumstances. Coffee is our main export product and we must support it, Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla has stressed.

Growers View President Bush Letter on Coffee

PA2409033589 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Gilberto Arango Londono, president of the National Association of Private Coffee Exporters in Bogota and Alberto Mesa Abadia, a coffee grower in Pereira, by station announcer Juan Gozaine—live]

[Text] [Gozaine] Good morning Mesa. First of all, after reading and analyzing President George Bush's letter do you really think his message brings hope concerning the reactivation of the Coffee Pact?

[Mesa] Yes, I think that President Bush's letter brings new hope regarding the pact's resumption. I have always said that the price of coffee is a political price, and that this political pact can only be maintained through a quota agreement. Therefore, I am very optimistic about President Bush's letter to President Barco.

[Gozaine] Arango Londono in Bogota: Why is Colombia's position radically different from the U.S. position regarding having other types of coffee in the market?

[Arango] I do not think there is a radical difference. In reality, for a long time Colombia defended the thesis that it was necessary to increase the amount of soft coffee on the market, and that low prices for nonmember countries should be discontinued. What happened is that during the last meeting in London Mr (Rossenbaum [not further identified]) went overboard and began asking for an entirely too large a quantity of coffee from the Central American countries which practically could not come from any other country but Brazil, until the rope snapped. I think the Bush proposal does bring good hope, but we must bear in mind that there is still a very obdurate position, which is held by some Central American countries like Mexico, and apparently a little bit by Brazil now—in the sense that they are reluctant to go to London and resume the talks.

What I fear is that the pact will again die, that it will suffer two deaths—the one 2 months ago, and the one now, which may lead to an additional and spectacular drop in prices.

[Gozaine] Dr Mesa in Pereira: From what Dr Arango says, one gets the impression that the letter only repeats, in more cordial terms, the position held by (Mr Rossenbaum) and that the reference to the trend in the market is simply the acceptance that one cannot toy with a permanent fixing of prices.

[Mesa] Yes, but actually the experience that the coffee-producing countries have gained from this situation clearly tells them that reasonable coffee prices can only be obtained through the previous mechanism. I think that this is a very important factor in any new negotiation—that is, the experience of the coffee-producing countries, which saw prices deteriorate tremendously under the free market system. I feel at this moment that the Central American countries have also felt the pinch of the low prices, and Brazil too, of course. Although coffee does not mean much to Brazil's economy, it must be feeling the pressure from the people who are seeing coffee—which is the basis of many economies—deteriorate with a market that is not really for a glut market [mercado de abundancia]. [sentence as heard]

[Gozaine] Dr Gilberto Arango: Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Luis Diego Escalante has said that in this haggling, so to speak, over the coffee pact at a world level one can notice, at any rate, a more open position on the part of the United States. It looks like it wants to negotiate and reach an agreement. However, there is no indication about the position held by Brazil, which is the world's top producer. Nobody knows what the Brazilians will say and what position they will adopt.

[Arango] Yes, Brazil's position is somewhat enigmatic. We can say it is almost one of lack of interest. This has annoyed Mr [name indistinct], who said about 1 and ½ months ago, when the previous meetings failed, that Brazil would not concern itself with any new pact before 2 years have passed. Brazil's attitude is a mystery. However, I do not fear Brazil's position as much as I fear that of the Central American countries and Mexico.

Escalante's position is one of the hardest and most difficult, despite what Alberto Mesa Abadia says, they have suffered plenty from the impact due to the drop in prices, but they stubbornly continue in their position saying they would need a much greater percentage of the coffee quota to be able to accept a pact. Neither are they very willing to accept a mechanism that really prevents lower sale prices to nonmember countries. They have continued selling huge amounts of coffee at ridiculously low prices. However, they do not seem to realize that this will cause a deterioration of their economies.

[Gozaine] One question for Dr Alberto Mesa Abadia: We now know the content's of President George Bush's letter, which has caused much expectation. However, the letter, as everyone says, does not say anything new. The letter mentions the two points the United States has already publicly announced, which ruined the World Coffee Pact. What lies ahead?

[Mesa] I believe talks should continue so we are able to maintain the basis on how to formulate coffee policies.

This is the political price underdeveloped, coffee producing countries must pay. These countries need higher prices so they can keep up their economies. The powerful, coffee consuming countries will undoubtedly lend a hand to these other countries to help them with the emergency brought about by the free market system that resulted in a total deterioration of coffee prices.

[Gozaine] Dr Gilberto Arango Londono, one last question: Many people in Colombia, familiar with the topic, are thinking that the United States is demanding too much from our country, but is not even helping by backing the World Coffee Pact. Do you share this view?

[Arango] I do believe the U.S. position has been very negative, but as our friend Alberto says, the United States has now become aware that this pact is very much of a political nature, and even if consumer countries have to make a small sacrifice by paying us a bit more for our coffee, this can be justified in trying to get us out of the big problems we, the coffee producing countries, are in. I believe that the U.S. position has changed and that we must focus the problem on the unwillingness, I repeat, of many of the producing countries to sit down and talk in London, with a truly constructive attitude.

[Gozaine] Thank you very much, Dr Arango Londono.

[Arango] You are welcome; see you later, Juan.

[Gozaine] Dr Gilberto Arango was president of the coffee export association. Dr Alberto Mesa Abadia, president of the coffee growing committee, who is in Risaralda, Pereira; you have been very kind.

[Mesa] See you later.

Establishment of Embassy in Morocco Planned

PA2309035189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0452 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, Sep 20 (AFP)—It was officially reported today that the Colombian Government has decided to establish a permanent diplomatic mission in the Kingdom of Morocco.

The new diplomatic mission, which will be located in Rabat, will consist of an ambassador and a second secretary, who will be in charge of diplomatic and consular affairs. Until now the Spanish Embassy had been handling Colombian diplomatic and consular affairs in Morocco.

The decision is part of the Barco administration's international policy, and is aimed at establishing links with distant countries such as those on the Asian and African Continents.

Ambush Kills Three Police, Wounds One in Cali

PA2209171789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1635 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by Fernando Mosquera Gallegos]

[Text] Cali—Three policemen were killed and one was injured when they were ambushed by an apparent subversive group near the San Vicente Corregimiento, Jamundi Muncipality, in the southwestern part of the Valle del Cauca Department.

It was reported that the policemen were ambushed by subversive elements who took their weapons and walkie-talkies. The policemen who were killed were identified as (Arven Mendez), (Hernei Rodriguez Carabali), and Crisanto Hernandez Naranjo. The identity of the wounded policeman is not yet known; he was initially attended at the regional hospital at Jamundi Municipality. The ambush took place between the bridges (Las Brujas) and El Indio in this municipality in Valle del Cauca Department.

The National Police and the 3d Infantry Brigade are right now involved in a special operation to find those responsible.

Reports of Bombing in Bogota, Cartagena

4 Bombs Explode; No Fatalities

PA2409131289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1228 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—Last night, Colombia's capital city was again the target of terrorist attacks. Three medium-sized bombs went off in Bogota last night. As a result of the explosions, three people were injured and large property losses were registered. The bombs went off within a 3-hour period between 2000 and 2300. The bombs exploded in downtown, southern, and northern Bogota.

The first bomb went off at 2015 at the Esmeralda Theater, located on 7th Avenue Building No 22-20. One person was injured and the bathroom where the bomb was placed was destroyed.

A second bomb went off at the District Bus Company parking lot at 2150. The bus company is located on 72d Street and 24th Avenue. One of the company's employees was injured, a transformer was damaged, and the facilities also experienced some damage.

The third bomb went off at the headquarters of the Bread and Roof Movement [Movimiento Pan y Techo], headed by Councilman Alfredo Guerrero Estrada. This movement supports the presidential candidacy of Hernando Duran Dussan. The movement's headquarters is located on 27th Street South and 13th Avenue, in the San Jose neighborhood. In this attack, the explosion caused minor damage to the building.

The fourth bomb exploded inside a helicopter of the Helicol Company [Colombian Helicopters, Inc] as the helicopter was landing in Valencia Jurisdiction, Cordoba Department. One person was slightly injured and the helicopter was partially destroyed.

In addition, as a result of joint F-2, Police, and DAS [Administrative Security Department] operations, two

dynamite charges placed at Caruya Supermarket were defused. The supermarket is located on 92d Street and 15th Avenue in northern Bogota.

The authorities defused another bomb placed at the Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Center located on 41th Street and 16th Avenue, in the Teusaquillo neighborhood.

Bombs Kill 2, Injure 3

PA2609042889 Paris AFP in Spanish 0353 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 25 Sep (AFP)—The police have reported that three terrorist attacks here in Bogota and in the Caribbean port of Cartagena left two dead and three injured.

The most serious incident took place at the historical beach resort where a bomb exploded on the 6th floor of the Hilton Hotel killing two people and seriously injuring another.

Almost simultaneously another bomb exploded in front of a bank in another part of Cartagena, partially destroying the building and injuring a guard and a passerby.

Meanwhile, in Bogota, a bomb exploded at a branch of the city's Electric Energy Enterprise in the suburb of Quirigua. The company's offices were destroyed, and approximately 50 neighboring residences were damaged by the blast.

According to a guard at the company, who escaped unhurt, two individuals who were passing by the building placed the explosives and fled. The guard said he barely had time to get away from the bomb before it went off.

Guests at the hotel, where practically all the windows were destroyed, had to be evacuated to other accommodations.

Cartagena had up to now escaped the wave of dynamite attacks that have been taking place in the country's large cities for the past several weeks. Authorities attribute the attacks to drug traffickers.

Contraband Dynamite From Brazil Discovered

PA2409195289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Report by Oscar Galvis]

[Text] The authorities have reported that a large amount of dynamite used in terrorist attacks has been smuggled into the country from Brazil. Carlos Arturo Casadiego, police deputy director general, said that a car bomb found by the 13th Brigade and F-2 [Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics] was going to be used in an attack against the DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] or the General Santander School. The officer added that attacks against [Administrative Department of Security Director] General Miguel Alfredo Maza Marquez continue to be plotted.

[Begin Casadiego recording] We have detected a huge contraband stash of dynamite coming mainly from Brazil. We are focusing on this and have managed to reduce the inflow. As you know, we have seized large amounts of dynamite. We wish we could prevent all attacks. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the 13th Brigade reported the arrest of four individuals, including two who are accused of having participated in the assassination of Liberal presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We know who paid them, but not how much they were paid. The investigation is now in the judge's hands. [end recording]

The detainees and the items seized were turned over to a judge.

Interview With Presidential Hopeful Samper

PA2409150389 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Sep 89 pp 1, 8A

[Interview with Colombian Liberal Party Candidate Hopeful Ernesto Samper by EL TIEMPO editors Rafael Santos and Dario Restrepo in Bogota; date not given]

[Text] Previously, when Ernesto Samper frowned, we knew he was mentally preparing a joke, as almost irreverent good humor was his trait.

Today, after the attack that took him very near to death 4 months ago and from which he returned to life, Samper frowns because of his deep concern for the country's situation. He is worried for the country. He is worried about everything. You can see that he is clinging to the life he just recently recovered, to his family, to his study, and to his pet dog.

The bullets not only made him lose weight, they also made him lose a lot of the lightness with which he managed life. He gained serenity and reflection. As Samper has been the most extroverted figure and the funniest one in the political triology formed with Luis Carlos Galan and Cesar Gaviria, he has had to suddenly grow mature and quiet, and it has benefited him greatly.

[Reporter] Clearly we are at war. Can we win?

[Samper] The government has issued measures that have been completely supported. Now, a great deal depends on the court's decision.

[Reporter] What if [the court] rejects the measures?

[Samper] The government would have to decide whether it presents the measures to the congress or not. In principle, the situation in the congress is not very clear, especially concerning extradition.

[Reporter] Is winning the war worth the cost we will have to pay?

[Samper] We have to distinguish between how effectively the war can be fought and its usefulness. The country is presently concerned with effectiveness. I believe, we have to simultaneously work on both fronts. I propose that, without pointing a finger at anyone and without the government lowering its guard in the struggle against drug trafficking, the country make an in-depth study of the war's bilateral and multilateral effects.

[Reporter] Something similar to the petroleum forum?

[Samper] Just as the country reached a consensus on the coffee matter and just as we are trying to reach a consensus in congress on the subject of petroleum, we should be studying other points and one of them is the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Reporter] Would doing so mean pardoning criminals?

[Samper] No. At no point [would it mean pardoning criminals]. It would be a simple, long-term discussion. I am not proposing legalization either. I am proposing that an in-depth study be made on the drug problem and that the study cover all the alternatives available.

[Reporter] Such as legalizing drugs?

[Samper] Legalization would be an alternative to be studied if the war is part of a general strategy for repression. Now, the moment and the circumstances would also have be included in the discussion.

[Reporter] But, would it be a discussion within Colombian society with drug traffickers or without drug traffickers?

[Samper] The discussion would have to include public and institutional opinion and have the participation of all sectors. In a war situtation, such as the one we are presently living, political leaders and citizens cannot shun the responsibility of making an in-depth study of the war's very serious implications. Perhaps, we allowed the drug situation to go too far. Now it is not only a public order problem, but also an economic and social reality. All the different situations must be included in the solution of the problem.

[Reporter] Does the solution include negotiating with the drug traffickers?

[Samper] No. At present, all the channels for dialogue with the drug traffickers are closed. The only dialogue that should be of interest to us, on a short term basis, is dialogue with the United States.

[Reporter] Why with the United States?

[Samper] To fully comprehend on what setting the war is going to be fought. We can win the war, but we have to avoid the danger of Vietnamizing it. It is very easy for the United States to transfer its war setting here. There is the supply, as well as the demand. We can control the supply by killing Colombia; placing an atomic bomb in Colombia. But tomorrow, if the demand continues, the problem will move to Venezuela, Brazil, or elsewhere. The drug problem moved from Mexico to Colombia when the crops in that country were sprayed with paraquat.

[Reporter] The dialogue with the United States is for solutions on a long-term and mid-term basis. However, on a short-term basis, what can be done to stop the destruction of our present generation?

[Samper] On a short-term basis. Colombia's only alternative is to win the war.

[Reporter] Regardless of whether they are for the short-term or the long-term, solutions require unity in struggle and this is not being clearly observed in the country?

[Samper] This is the first time that I have said this: I would not form a national government, but a pluralistic government if I am elected Colombian president. The formula invented by [former Colombian Conservative President Belisario] Betancur—the national movement—was an ingenious proposal by a minority party to bind the naive together in a noisy, aimless bunch, so as to create an artificial majority. My proposal is not to create an artificial majority, but to form an ideological and programmed majority with a pluralistic government. A government that, without sacrificing the government-opposition system, and by making use of alliances, is able to call, not only political parties, but other social forces into government. A government that will gather all these forces around a program that is to include the reconstruction of fundamental points within the country, such as the defense of our institutions.

[Reporter] You mean, return to the National Front....

[Samper] No. Every time there is a serious problem in Colombia, the Conservative Party is called, as it is believed that by reviving the National Front, everything is solved. What we have to do is form a government in which all sectors are represented. For example, economic guilds, social organizations, regional spokesmen, all the political parties. Such a pluralistic government would be able to confront the task of renewing unity, as the lack of unity is seriously affecting Colombia. Here no one agrees with anyone about anything.

[Reporter] How is unity renewed?

[Samper] In general, by thinking in terms of what we want this country to be in the next 10 years. We cannot continue to have new plans every 4 years. We have to form a general plan for the country's development that is accepted by liberals, conservatives, and rebels.

[Reporter] What is the difference between your proposal and the one presented by former Conservative President [Misael] Pastrana that requires a minimal agreement on the topics to be covered within a government-opposition plan?

[Samper] Pastrana's theory lacks responsibility. Agreements are to be made, but not based on the lack of responsibility of some and the responsibility of others. To come into government not only means that you will have a bueaucratic quota, but requires political responsibility. The program I propose covers fundamental matters. If Dr Pastrana agrees with it and comes into the government, it will be through an alliance and without losing his identity. This is the fundamental difference between a pluralist proposal and a nationalist one.

[Reporter] Do you not believe that conservativism is a power alternative?

[Samper] The Conservative Party has to understand that its role is not to try to be different than President [Virgilio] Barco's government. The country is looking for an alternative to the crisis, not to the government.

[Reporter] Did the crisis change the political map for liberalism?

[Samper] Completely. For example, we have to distinguish between Galanism [followers of late Liberal Senator Luis Carlos Galan] as a political movement and Galanists as opinion movers. The party has to begin studying how to mantain the Galanists in the liberal movement.

[Reporter] What is the formula to hold them in the movement?

[Samper] That the party make a very clear proposal to accept many of the proposals presented by Galan.

[Reporter] How has your way of thinking, observing politics, or handling problems being affected by the almost deadly attack you suffered? Has it separated you, for example, from your populist inclinations?

[Samper] Yes. The brush with death produced great maturity in me. I have returned to hospitals and clinics. A short time ago, I was at the National Social Welfare Institute watching my brother die. It was at the same place where I was saved, with the same doctors, and with the same attention. The contrast between life and death has caused me to deeply reflect. I have pondered whether to keep on fighting or devote myself to my home, wife, and children. I have made the decision to keep on because I believe that since I won this second chance in life, I did not have the right to use it in a personal manner; my life had to be used to continue working to attain my ideals.

[Reporter] Have you not had second thoughts during this crisis?

[Samper] Yes, everyday.

[Reporter] Are you going to quit?

[Samper] That is impossible. If my calling was to plant oranges in Anapoima then, surely, I would have gotten off this bus a long time ago. However, since I believe I have a project that can serve the country, I am willing to run the risks that are necessary.

[Reporter] Are you scared?

[Samper] I do not know. Unless, fear is this nostalgia I get in the morning when I say goodbye to my children. One wonders if one will see them again....

ANAPO Supports Santofimio Botero Nomination

PA2409133889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] The National Popular Alliance [ANAPO]—the political party that threatened the traditional political parties in 1970 and that in recent years almost disappeared due to lack of electoral support—has decided to support Alberto Santofimio Botero as the Liberal Party presidential hopeful. The decision came yesterday at a National Congress attended by correspondent Marcia Martinez Guerra.

[Begin recording] [Martinez Guerra] Every cloud has a silver lining. The disagreement with the government over the U.S. intervention in national affairs became the common denominator between Santofimio Botero and ANAPO. Santofimio Botero pointed this out, and he achieved ANAPO's support. After 19 years of struggle by ANAPO to maintain it, its ideological structure seems to be left behind. Did ANAPO abandon its ideological interests by joining Santofimio Botero?

[First unidentified politician] No way. This is not the first time that we are endorsing a candidate of vast popular support. Every movement and every party maintains its logical independence and its political organization.

[Second unidentified politician] ANAPO keeps its positions, ideologies, and platform.

[Martinez Guerra] [The late] General Rojas Pinilla is surely happy with this decision, at least, that is what his family thinks.

[First unidentified politician] I believe so. When Rojas Pinilla founded ANAPO, he united the liberals and conservatives, and we are obviously endorsing a people's candidacy.

[Second unidentified politician] Gen Rojas Pinilla liked everything related to supporting the people, solutions that favor the poorest.

[Martinez Guerra] Apparently without giving up its ideologies, ANAPO gave Santofimio Botero a boost to continue with his political career. [end recording]

Liberals Reject Comments by Social Conservatives

PA2509222089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Report by Raul Gutierrez]

[Text] Today, President Barco is meeting with the Liberal Party National Directorate at the Narino Presidential Palace. Meanwhile, Former President Misael Pastrana is meeting with the Social Conservative Party National Directorate in his home.

Before entering the Narino Palace, the Liberal Party leaders presented a harsh statement against Pastrana. Thus, relations between the two parties are even more bitter.

Today the Colombian Liberal Party gave a kiss and a pinch here at the Narino Palace. The loud kiss was for President Barco, to praise the efforts of his government against all forms of organized crime without the cooperation of the Social Conservative Party. The kiss was accompanied by an embrace. Per request of the Liberal Party National Directorate, there will be no cabinet crisis. In addition, the government will get on with the constitutional amendment. The pinch was for Former President Misael Pastrana. The Liberal Party National Directorate, headed by its single chief, Julio Cesar Turbay, presented a statement rejecting Pastrana's statements on the lack of guarantees for the time of the presidential election.

The Liberals told Pastrana that it is not a good idea to offer support for measures against drug trafficking while accompanying that offer with offenses against the government.

Article Views Budget Proposal for 1990

PA2409022589 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Aug 89 p 7

[Article by Rodrigo LLorente Martinez]

[Text] The government has submitted for approval to Congress a general budget for the gigantic sum of 4.2 trillion pesos. This amount includes the government's expenses as well as that of the decentralized agencies for 1990, and even though the two red hardcover volumes are smaller than the traditional bulky blue books, they are the most dangerous fiscal inflationary tool any government has offered the country since the fall of the Rojas Pinilla dictatorship.

The red hardcover volumes might be a tribute to President Barco's government and party, but they disregard the care and moderation exercised by almost every government since the National Front period began. This year the government is using, for the first time, the dangerous basic budget statute approved through Law 38 of 1989 which annulled the sensible and restrictive Decree 294 of 1973 issued by the Pastrana Borrero administration.

We have already explained in previous articles how this statute weakens the control and responsibility that up to now successive finance ministers had exercised in handling the treasury. This control has now passed to a committee of seven members—the CONPFIS [expansion unknown]—in which the Finance Ministry is just one voice amid the disorder and leniency that is natural to all corporate organisms.

The proposed budget is an inflationary bomb for the following reasons:
1. It is based on the unrealistic theory of a prosperous economy, without recession or dramatic drops in coffee prices.
2. The calculation of the nation's revenues is recklessly optimistic: for 1990 the budget predicts 2.1 trillion pesos, almost twice the 1988 revenue, and no estimates are mentioned for the current year.
3. It is a well-known fact that there has been a 30-percent increase in appointments to bureaucratic government jobs, and that the budget merely mentions an unsustainable 19-percent salary hike for the current payroll.
4. Over the past year the government obtained 162 billion pesos in currency issuance credit from the Banco de la Republica. According to announcements and the current legal norms, financing for this credit should be obtained over the coming 12 months. There is no visible way to cover this in the budget: During what is left of 1989 and throughout 1990 plans have been made for the amortization of a mere 18.022 billion pesos to the Banco de la Republica. How is the remainder going to be paid? Will more currency be issued, or is this a monstruous budget deficit that is being kept under wraps due to its size and origin?
5. Articles 66 and 67 of the draft budget include a complementary budget of 28.500 billion pesos financed with TAN [expansion unknown] bonds. It is well known that this is nothing more than a disguised currency issuance credit by the Banco de la Republica.
6. The Special Foreign Exchange Account funds, appropriately done away with in 1983 by the Betancur government, have reappeared as a 110 billion peso source of inflation.

On another occasion I will examine the harmful effects of the huge budget deficits of the Territorial Credit Institution, ICT, the Social Security Fund, and other state institutions, especially the power sector, that have no reserves or do not receive enough funds to cover their debts and other obligations.

The current government's bright and optimistic view allows President Barco to tell Congress, in his message attached to the draft budget, that the growth rate of next year's gross national product will be 4 percent and that the trade balance's surplus will be $1.048 billion. The current marked recession and the drop of approximately 50 percent in the price of coffee over the past weeks, make us think that the basic economic beliefs for this gigantic budget are unreal.

The greatest danger is that, according to the new budget statute, funds that have not yet been guaranteed, such as foreign loans, can be incorporated into the budget. Even if the government thinks it has a good chance of getting 85 percent of the foreign loans, the danger still exists that

this money may not arrive on time and the debts could have to be covered in other ways, such as another dangerous currency issuance credit from the Banco de la Republica. It is well known that in Colombia "budgeted expenses are expenses made," and even more so during the last year of a government, like the current one, that is trying to show that it did some work.

A similar thing could happen with the optimistic tax revenue calculations if the country's immediate perspectives include a recession in the productive sector. If to this we add the intense inflationary pressures to maintain the internal coffee prices in light of the National Coffee Fund's current lack of liquidity and the imbalance between these prices and the international price of the bean, then we are walking on the razors edge of a gigantic currency issuance.

But, unfortunately, the monetary mess does not stop here. The printing of paper money must continue at full blast fueled by the new loans from the treasury that, according to a draft bill presented to the Congress by Finance Minister Alarcon before leaving on yet another trip abroad, the government will request. The government is asking the Congress to approve the printing of 50 billion pesos. However, nothing has been done to collect the 162 billion pesos issued by the government within the "monetary framework" created by the recent drop of the Banco de la Republica's foreign exchange by approximately $500 million. This drop will strongly increase when the Challenger loan must be re aid and its resulting inflationary consequences occur.

Irresponsible currency issuance, to which we must add the reappearance of the Special Foreign Exchange Account's inflationary ghost and a 110 billion pesos currency issuance, are some of the things included in the draft budget. An inflationary landslide of a fiscal origin has fallen on us and this is why the representatives of the PSC [Social Conservative Party] will surely continue to fight a hard battle in defense of the people who have been unjustly punished by the recent hikes in the cost of living.

The new draft budget is the red-bound open confession of the current government's inflationary spirit.

Peru

U.S. Ambassador's Residence Fired Upon

PY2509170589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] Lima, 25 Sep (EFE)—Suspected terrorists fired at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Peru this past Sunday, an embassy source disclosed today.

Four individuals repeatedly fired their automatic weapons from inside a car at the national police agents in charge of security at the residence. These agents returned the fire, the source reported.

"No material or personal damage has resulted," said the source, who asked to remain anonymous. The source then added: "The Peruvian police are investigating the incident. It is not known whether the attackers belong to a terrorist group."

A national police source has said that the attack on Sunday leads one to suspect that members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) might have been involved.

Three years ago, a car bomb exploded outside the U.S. ambassador's residence causing considerable material damage. The MRTA claimed responsibility for this attack.

The U.S. ambassador's residence is located on Arequipa Avenue, one of Lima's main streets, 50 meters from a national police station and 100 meters from the Armed Forces Joint Command building.

Shining Path Kills Morococha Mayor, Treasurer

PY2509194789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Today is a sad day for democracy: A Shining Path commando yesterday murdered Morococha Mayor Heriberto Zalazar and Municipal Treasurer (Hugo Ames Artica). [passage omitted]

Venezuela

President Perez Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2609015089 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez before the 44th UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] Mr President, delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Mr President, I am pleased to greet and congratulate you on behalf of Venezuela and my government on your election as president of this UN General Assembly. My greeting is also extended to the other members at the main table.

At the same time, we pay recognition to outgoing president Dr Dante Caputo for the extraordinary work he has done during the past period of sessions of this assembly and we also recognize the work of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mr President, the upcoming last decade of the 20th century compels us to think about this century's history and experiences. Today, we can begin to analyze and take a look at what the next 10 years of this century will and should be like.

The superpowers have entered a period of detente, adjustments, and cooperation with important initiatives on matters that concern nuclear and conventional disarmament

and with a disposition toward solving and not meddling in regional conflicts that have caused so much human loss and material damage to Third World countries.

In addition, the irrational period of the cold war left a tragic balance in the overall world's economy and a crisis that also affects the big powers, because no economy, regardless of how strong it is, can finance unlimited military expenditures. We have all paid for this, but, very especially, Third World countries.

It seems that the world has finally seen a predisposition in international society to tolerate its own plurality and work together to reduce and, if possible, eliminate the sources of tension and conflicts to which we have almost grown accustomed.

I want to express Venezuela's recognition of the big powers' initiatives for detente and disarmament. We want to tell their leaders that we trust their determination and perseverance.

If the blocs come to a concerted agreement, we will finally begin to overcome the cold war and the threat of nuclear conflict.

It was 13 years ago, on 16 November 1976, that I came to this organization as president of Venezuela. On that occasion, I noted that an effort was being made to use peaceful coexistence as the support for the world's politica[1] balance and that this coexistence, in itself, only meant a truce that was more or less long.

I described the separation or the division of the world into antagonistic blocs. I mentioned that interdependence, as a solution for equality and cooperation among equals, was not the system of relations among powerful countries or between the powerful and weak countries.

I proposed then, just like I am proposing now, the building of a new world economic order, because otherwise, the world's political balance would continue to be seriously jeopardized.

Remembering my statements now, when my people's sovereign will took me to the Venezuelan Presidency again, I must admit, with profound concern, that my previous call to the ethical conscience of the developed countries is still dramatically relevant.

Over the course of these years, relations between the developed countries and the weakest, the developing nations, have deteriorated. Relations between the North and South are not only showing more unfair profiles than 13 years ago, but the situation has substantially deteriorated along the decade that now draws to an end with the unbearable problem of foreign debt.

Referring to this crisis, which endangers the debtor countries' stability, no one can claim that there are not enough warnings or alternate formulas for a solution. Venezuela has always been willing to take them into consideration. It is unacceptable for debtor countries to continue financing the industrialized nations' growth through net transfers of their resources. It is necessary to revert this tendency so that developing nations may finance their own sustained growth and their people's welfare. Initiatives designed to reduce both the foreign debt principal and service, particularly those included in the so-called Brady plan, represent positive steps that guarantee its political characteristics and the principle of shared responsibility for the solution of the crisis. Nevertheless, the contributions offered by creditor countries and international commercial banks are insufficient, to say the least.

The effort that we may all exert to solve the foreign debt problem cannot be separated from the general evolution of the Third World's relations with industrialized countries. The seriousness of the situation, which has been noted many times, lies in the fact that North-South economic relations have compromised, and continue to compromise, the possibilities of achieving our development. No one ignores that indispensable social and political investments are impossible without sustained economic growth. The alarming thing about this situation is that there is as yet no clear idea or awareness among developed countries about what is really at stake. There is nothing more fragile or unpredictable, Mr President, than societies without hope or faith.

It is said that economic adjustments are sufficient, but Venezuela believes that they are, in fact, necessary. However, these are not viable without a solution to the foreign debt and without strong support from other countries. This also endangers the political stability of our countries and even the political stability of the world. In sum, the crisis is the result of a failure to objectively interpret the danger signals and the lack of willingness to pledge the necessary minds and resources to prevent it. The foreign debt crisis demands the same long-range vision applied in Japan and Europe after the war.

The destiny of mankind is at stake. Almost a third of the world population has been unable to solve its economic growth problem, which is a prerequisite to the possibility of servicing the foreign debt. The danger of a social upheaval, involving more than a billion people, cannot be avoided, and the consequences will also be felt by industrialized nations which now see—with uncommon indifference—how the crisis quickly deteriorates.

Venezuela became a member of the Nonaligned Movement this year. We thus joined the majority of Third World countries that recognize that nonalignment is the option more in accordance with our realities and hopes, and we trust the strength of our unity to give our positions enough strength to sponsor changes in modern politics and economy.

Venezuela has always placed special emphasis on relations among developing countries. I am convinced that the Third World countries will never be able to fully exercise their political sovereignty, nor achieve equity in their economic relations with the developed countries if

they do not effectively strengthen South-South relations as a fundamental premise for increasing their ability to negotiate.

International society need not be condemned to the continued constraints of outdated designs. We can see this today within the framework of East-West relations, and in the European countries' efforts to gain an identity and explore new paths.

The international system must evolve to assimilate today's pluralism, and it is my intention to bring this pluralist structure to the developing countries. With our culture, economies, and political realities in all their fullness, with this vision that transcends conflicts and highlights our common affinities and potential, we have bolstered our effort to take control of our own distances, which will allow us to express ourselves and act under better conditions.

Venezuela, along with other developing countries, has stated its desire to work toward revitalizing the North-South dialogue. Venezuela expressed its position during the 43d UN General Assembly ordinary session, and it reiterated this position during the Group of 77's 25th anniversary, which was celebrated in Caracas in June; in the Paris Initiative prepared by the presidents of Egypt, Senegal, Venezuela, and the prime minister of India during a meeting on the occasion of the French revolution's bicentennial; and more recently at the Nonaligned Movement's meeting, where it was fully supported by all the organization's members. At the Nonaligned Movement, we formed a group of 15 African, Asian, Latin American, and European countries, the heads of state or government of which will meet annually to examine issues that interest the countries that constitute the South.

Mr President, my region, Latin America, is not, despite the changes it has undergone, exempt from difficult political situations. I wish to especially mention the evolution of Central America's situation. The latest developments illustrated by the Tela, Honduras agreements, ratify the certainty that with autonomy, confidence, and international support, the Central American countries will see peace return to their bosom. I am also pleased with the agreement achieved in El Salvador whereby the leaders of the Farabundo National Liberation Front [FMLN] will arrange a cease-fire and establish negotiations with the Salvadoran Government. The FMLN will thus be able to join the political and democratic process in that country. Few cases in Latin America have demonstrated like these how pernicious foreign meddling under false premises of strategic interests can be.

Besides Central America, I have observed events in Panama with concern. The annulment of the democratic process and the disregard shown for the Panamanian people's sovereign right to choose their government, are factors that destabilize the vigorous democratization process in Latin America. I must also say that nothing could be more unacceptable than a crisis that would question the Torrijos-Carter treaties, an achievement for Latin American solidarity and a pledge that unites all of our people. Those who, like Venezuela, are directly responsible for this historic Latin American claim, cannot look on indifferently as the tension mounts. Nothing is more important for Latin America than to see the Panamanian people democratically solve their differences, and to see the canal treaties fulfilled as planned.

I also want to express Venezuela's satisfaction, because the process that leads to the self-determination of the Puerto Rican people has been initiated. Venezuela and Puerto Rico are united by invaluable ties of history and culture. Only the Costa Rican [as heard] people, however, can decide their own future. New developments have taken place this year. Venezuela hopes these circumstances will soon enable the Puerto Rican people to express their preferences according to their sovereign will. We must say that we Latin Americans want to see Puerto Rico become another Latin American nation, as our liberators dreamed and for which they fought.

Because of its importance to Venezuela and the rest of Latin America, the United States plays a leading role in the cases that I have mentioned. Venezuela expects this friendly country to maintain its current position of prioritizing multilateral dialogue and permanent consultation with the certainty that only through these two instruments will it be possible on the American Continent to achieve the goals included in the documents that all of us have signed in the Inter-American system and the United Nations.

Mr President, Venezuela advocates rapprochement and cooperation in its foreign policy. We must still face and overcome difficult historical circumstances. One of them is to establish our Latin American, continental, and Caribbean identity. With its divisive sequel, colonialism had separated us from the Caribbean. Today, we can congratulate ourselves for the tremendous progress that the Caribbean nations have achieved with regard to their identities and their admirable effort to come closer to our nation. These nations are not only neighbors and friends, but a beloved portion of Latin America, with which we share opportunities and hope in a common destiny.

To conclude our remarks on Latin American affairs, I will refer briefly to the Group of Eight. This year, we will hold in Lima the third presidential meeting of the Permanent Consultation and Political Agreement Mechanism. This experience has transformed the scope and manner of dealing with our mutual relations in Latin America.

Mr President, Venezuela reiterates its repudiation of colonialism and all forms of racial discrimination. We share the profound concern of the UN member countries, particularly Southern African countries, for the continued existence of the genocial apartheid system, which constitutes a Nazi-like violation of the human rights, a crime against mankind. We welcome with great

satisfaction the proposal to hold special UN General Assembly sessions to discuss apartheid.

Concerning decolonization, we have consistently supported initiatives oriented toward eliminating the last vestiges of colonialism, particularly those related to Namibia's independence and the implementation of a UN Security Council plan toward this end. We trust that the countries directly involved in the solution of this problem will continue to demonstrate the political willingness required to complete this independence process through the elections scheduled for November under UN supervision. We are observing with hope the evolution of the Western Saharan conflict. We support the UN secretary general's efforts and reiterate our conviction that direct dialogue will effectively contribute toward recognition of the rights of the Sahawari people, the solution of this conflict, and the process leading toward the Magreb's integration.

In this entire process, Latin Americans are dutybound to mention the Malvinas case. We trust that, in accordance with the UN resolutions and international solidarity and laws, the Republic of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain will begin talks to settle the controversy concerning sovereignty over these islands in the South Atlantic, which form part of the territory of the Republic of Argentina since the time we, the Latin American nations, won independence from Spain.

I cannot fail to mention the gruesome tragedy of Lebanon, a homeland torn by a suicidal and diabolic conflict. The Lebanese people deserve the world's support and defense. We hail the Arab League's decision to appoint the commission comprised of the Saudi Arabian and Moroccan kings and the Algerian president to mediate this horrendous and absurd conflict. Venezuela asks for utmost diligence by the United Nations to bring an end to the terrible massacres and violations of human rights. It also offers to cooperate in any initiative in which our participation may be useful.

Mr President, because they are absolutely essential to the life of our societies and world security, I would like to raise the drug and environment problems. In 1984, Venezuela presented at this organization a proposal for a UN agreement to fight the illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances. Today we are happy to see a growing readiness to sign it. Together with other Latin American countries, Venezuela recently proposed at the nonaligned summit other initiatives for the prevention of and fight against the laundering of drug money. At the national and Andean subregional level, other systematic action is being taken to eradicate this evil.

The seriousness and dimension of this crime against humankind has been evidenced this year by the developments in Colombia. International solidarity has rested more on words than on deeds. A case in point is the United States' behavior. Without doubt, it took the lead in expressing solidarity and providing tangible assistance. However, in place of this circumstantial assistance, would it not have been more important to help strengthen Colombia's economy? This attitude could have been shown by supporting the international coffee agreement. Well, it was not. The coffee-producing countries—Colombia among them—some beset by the money from the drug traffic and others by the debt, like Brazil—saw their resources drop because of the United States' refusal to sign the agreements of the International Coffee Organization.

Prices have slumped. How can one fight drug trafficking under such circumstances, with debt and low prices for our products? At any rate, we are happy over the agreements that were reached at the Paris summit, because we are convinced that unless resolute action is taken at the level of demand, we will achieve little. It behooves the producing countries to fight drug trafficking, but it is the duty of the consuming countries, in turn, to curb the demand drastically, because it obviously makes the fight against drug trafficking more difficult.

This struggle against the drug trafficking must be waged relentlessly and sparing no efforts. Let us not forget that drug trafficking and drug abuse not only undermine institutions and damage health, but go hand in hand with terrorism, arms smuggling, a resurgence in mercenary activities, and violations of human rights. I feel obliged to say that despite all that has been done—which I have outlined with optimism—the fight against drugs must be the subject of international legislation sponsored by the United Nations at a world conference to confront this crime without borders, a crime that takes advantage of borders to flout and trample on our sovereignty.

At the Ninth Summit of Chiefs of State and Government of the Nonaligned Movement in Belgrade, I proposed holding a world conference to discuss an international agreement against drug trafficking that would be binding for all countries of the world.

Concerning the environment, I wish to reiterate what I have said at other forums—development and environment go hand in hand, so far, in an antinomic way. Developed and developing countries must jointly discuss this problem and reconcile views in a single effort to preserve our environmental legacy without infringing on our common right to develop. I want to propose drafting an agreement for UN members, an agreement that will bind us all. My country is part of a key region in the world, the immense Amazon. The eight countries that comprise it signed the Amazon pact, and, without affecting our sovereignty, we agreed to conserve it as a patrimony of humankind and a legacy that nature has left us for the development and wealth of our nations.

Mr President, Venezuela firmly supports holding special UN sessions devoted to international economic cooperation and, particularly, to the reactivation of the growth and

economic development of developing countries to be held in April 1990. We will attend that important event.

We also express our interest in the successful culmination of preparations for the international development strategy of the United Nations' 4th Decade for Development. Let us devote this next decade, the last of the 20th century, to the preservation of children—the future of humankind in the world's 3d millenium. Let us propose a reduction in infant mortality to half the current rates, a reduction in the mortality rate of mothers to half the current rates, the universalization of primary education, and the elimination of severe malnutrition.

Allow me to urge you, at this forum of humankind, to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which represents the consensus of all the governments of the world concerning the minimum guarantees that all societies must offer to children. This must be the new international ethics. Venezuela will support this convention at this assembly because it will safeguard the most widely violated human rights in the world—the rights of children. We will also support holding an international summit devoted to children proposed by UNICEF. We offer our full support to the Swedish prime minister, the first to support such summit. We hereby offer to sponsor it together with any other nations that may wish to join this initiative.

In April 1989, at the 12th meeting of Andean health ministers held in Caracas, I suggested holding a regional Latin American summit. Statistics in our region could not be more alarming: 1 million children who are less than 5 years old die each year; 360,000 in Brazil, 175,000 in Mexico, and 245,000 in the Andean countries. The foreign debt figure for each child born in Latin America is $32,000 and the social debt is $23,000. The historical liability of each newborn baby is $60,000 [figure as heard], equal to more than 25 times the gross national product per inhabitant. Summing up, in Latin America, the majority of children are poor and the majority of the poor are children. Social development or the eclipse of mankind are the alternatives as we enter the 3d millenium.

Mr President, we have come to the United Nations to call for international cooperation. Let us not close our eyes to the innumerable dangers that loom over this promising phase. Let us recognize the dangers and let us all work to reinforce the tendency to have reason prevail. There are immense economic and social problems facing our peoples, and there is no reason to postpone the solution of those problems, thereby opening the doors to conflict and instability.

Strategic confrontations dominated our best minds during the last half century of history. Perhaps it is time for all of us to turn our eyes and our attention inward, toward our people and our societies to determine their status, their moral deficiencies, and their crises, and seek a solution. This will give us the measure of the great mistake that has predominated this turbulent last half of the 20th century, and open doors to hope, so that we can move forward to meet the magic date—the 3d millenium—with confidence that in the next century, all the world's nations will be able to march forward, united by a spirit of solidarity and the single purpose of guaranteeing the welfare of all. Thank you very much. [applause]

* Rodriguez Discusses Economic Situation

33480271h Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
30 Jul 89 p D2

[Interview with Minister of Coordination and Planning Miguel Rodriguez by Alfredo Pena; date and place not given]

[Text] [EL NACIONAL] Inflation surged upward in March and April. Then you succeeded in restraining it. You have also succeeded in stabilizing the rate of exchange at between 36 and 38 bolivares to the dollar. But on what basis—increased unemployment, a brutal drop in consumption, exceeding 50 percent in some cases, lack of monetary liquidity, and high interest rates....

[Rodriguez] The advances we achieved in controlling inflation and stabilization were recognized by the ministers of finance in the other Latin American countries as being spectacular, particularly if compared with the hyperinflationary economies. But you are absolutely right when you say that the cost to Venezuela and its people has been a painful one. All of the countries which have implemented anti-inflationary policies have had to bear very harsh costs, seen in economic shrinkage and unemployment. Our adjustment was harsher than expected because of the very serious problem of the letters of credit, which exceeded all expectations. The letters of credit—more than $6 billion—meant more than 75 billion bolivares in foreign exchange losses for the state, and 6 points on the gross domestic product. This made a special extra fiscal adjustment necessary, which led to the serious economic shrinkage we are experiencing. The lag in public and private investments caused by the delays in getting approval for the public credit laws needed for implementing all of the social programs has also had an effect.

[EL NACIONAL] During the electoral campaign, President Perez urged an expansive economic policy. You yourself went so far as to say that growth with a tolerable rate of inflation was preferable. But now a constructive and recessive policy is being pursued.

[Rodriguez] The economic policy is clearly expansive. All of our predictions are for great economic expansion in Venezuela beginning in 1990. This is included not only in the Economic Plan, but in our international agreements. We are obtaining the resources to carry the investments projects forward. Renegotiation of the debt will also liberate resources for this great economic expansion. In the second half of the year, we will see major economic recovery and an increase in liquidity which will alleviate the situation we are currently experiencing. We will pursue an expansive, not an inflationary, policy. The Venezuelan economy, unlike those in other Latin

American countries, is structurally capable of growth without inflation, as in fact was seen for many decades.

[EL NACIONAL] How long will the country be kept in intensive therapy? Nothing is moving here. There are no investments, and there are reports of massive bankruptcies among small and average businesses. The farmers are not planting, and stockmen are complaining because their investments are not making profits.

[Rodriguez] Regrettably, the imbalances at the beginning of this year were of such magnitude that we had to make substantial adjustments in the fiscal and monetary sector. The differential exchange system caused the country serious problems, and not of an economic nature alone. But beginning next year, we will indeed get the economy moving again, and with inflation under control. At the same time, we will establish payment balance equilibrium, as any economy which proposes growth on a continuing long-term basis must do.

Public Expenditures

[EL NACIONAL] Eddo Polesel, the president of the Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] warned in our forum on Sunday, 16 July, that the government was basing economic expansion on an increase in public expenditures, which he regarded as working against the economic program which views the private sector as the moving force of the economy.

[Rodriguez] We disagree entirely with our friend Polesel. What has happened in 1989 is a drastic contraction of public expenditures. We have pointed out to him that to speak of nominal quantities in economics makes no sense. In real terms, public expenditures have declined, and they will decline even further in 1989. And in the next few years, there will be a downward adjustment, in comparison to the rest of the economy. The entire economic program is based on an expansion of the private sector. The resources which are being obtained and which the country will continue to obtain will be allocated for productive investments. But we must not fall into the trap of absurd ideological positions, either. Venezuela is a young country which requires heavy investment in the infrastructure, precisely in order to make it attractive for private investment. This means aqueducts, dams, transport routes, ports, airports, etc. In the developed countries, this investment was effected by the state, and this will be done here in our country. The government policy calls for reducing current expenditures, but it is necessary to invest in public works in order to be able to achieve the development we are seeking.

[EL NACIONAL] Polesel warned that if the government failed to adopt the necessary measures, the employment plan (more than 20 billion bolivares will be put into circulation in an economy which has contracted, and in which production and supply have dwindled) might cause prices to shoot upward in October.

[Rodriguez] This will not happen. At the present time, our domestic industry has idle capacity, as a result of the extra adjustment mentioned above. The employment plan is designed to restore the consumption capacity of the sectors which have been most seriously affected by the reorganization of the economy. We are taking steps to alleviate the agony of unemployment. The employment plan gives priority to the construction of housing to benefit society, rural road networks, aqueducts, and sewer systems.

[EL NACIONAL] But reproductive investment must be taken into serious account. What will happen when this 20 billion has been spent? Will 20 billion more be spent, and so on and on?

[Rodriguez] We want the reproductive investment to be effected by the private sector. The employment plan has been drafted for this adjustment period. It is not a permanent plan. The great employment plan of the government is based precisely on encouraging private investment in the reproductive areas.

The IMF Plan

[EL NACIONAL] Antonio Rios, the president of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], told us in the forum last Sunday that the trade-union movement is aware that these IMF proposals have not produced results in any of the Third World countries. However, as the government technicians have asserted that Venezuela is an exception, they would wait until December, and if they did not see that the promised results had been achieved, they would propose a break with the IMF.

[Rodriguez] We in Venezuela drafted this program, and it is we who are implementing it. It does indeed involve correcting the imbalances in our economy and putting it on a sound basis. However, this was what was recommended by all sensible economists, not an IMF requirement.

[EL NACIONAL] Freddy Munoz, the secretary general of the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism], has revealed that President Perez told them in Miraflores that there was no alternative but to implement the policies of the IMF because otherwise it would not have been possible to have obtained foreign resources.

[Rodriguez] This program will establish the foundations for healthy economic development. Correcting the imbalances has made it necessary to pay a social cost which we regret. All the multilateral bodies and the governments of all the developed countries are supporting the economic policy we are implementing. The government of Japan will channel very substantial resources into the Venezuelan economy.

[EL NACIONAL] And what if you are wrong? Freddy Munoz recalled recently that you had estimated inflation at 40 percent for 1989. We talked in November of last year, and you thought that exchange standardization, devaluation, or whatever you want to call it, would establish the rate at between 19 and 22 bolivares to the dollar.

[Rodriguez] The important thing is not the annual rate of inflation we have, but the trend we are seeing. Regrettably, we will have a cumulative rate of inflation of between 60 and 70 percent by 31 December. But this will be the result of the inflationary explosion of March and April, which will account for two-thirds of this percentage. We are seeing a decline from the inflationary peak, and it is this which we must consolidate and maintain in time.

[EL NACIONAL] The opposition has charged that the inflationary figures are being doctored in order to spare the feelings of President Perez.

[Rodriguez] The Central Bank has been characterized by totally serious statistical computations of all kinds. And one of the sectors in which it has the most experience is precisely price movement. I have no doubt that we have succeeded in controlling inflation at this time. After a great deal of thought, the government decided on definitive standardization of the foreign exchange market, avoiding any gradual approach. I believe that this is one sector in which the economic program has had the greatest success. Stabilization at 36 or 37 bolivares to the dollar is having an anti-inflationary impact.

[EL NACIONAL] Don't you think that this exchange rate is beginning to move at a time when inventories are being exhausted, exports are resuming, and liquidity is increasing?

[Rodriguez] Despite the fact that imports have declined substantially in recent months, it should be noted that we have been providing foreign exchange as if we were importing at a very high level. We are paying for the imports which came to almost $12 billion last year. Here we will see an increase in imports when the economic situation has normalized, but in August and September we will be finishing the payments on letters of credit. This increase in imports will not effectively represent a greater expenditure of foreign exchange. There are very important indications pointing to the fact that a substantial distribution of capital is occurring.

[EL NACIONAL] How many dollars have been returned to date?

[Rodriguez] We have not made an assessment, but there is indeed a substantial recovery of capital.

The February Explosion

[EL NACIONAL] Don't you believe that events like the February explosion (President Perez called it the "war of the poor against the rich") represent a very high cost which we have had to pay for the implementation of these programs?

[Rodriguez] The tragic events of 27 and 28 February, which we hope will never be repeated, did not occur because of the impact of our economic program.

[EL NACIONAL] President Perez, in trying to exorcise this popular rebellion, charged that the events such as those which occurred in February and others throughout Latin America have been the logical result of IMF policies. This tragedy has been presented to the United States and the bank as proof of the sacrifices we are making. Washington came forward to help us with a bridge loan.

[Rodriguez] The events on 27 and 28 February preceded the implementation of the program. The only step which had been taken before then was the gasoline increase. The increase in transport fares put into effect in such zones such as Guarenas and elsewhere on Monday, the 27th, was well above what the government had approved. This was the spark which touched off these events, which occurred within a society which had been suffering from substantial declines in real income and deterioration in the conditions of life for a long time. This is a situation we propose to reverse in the medium and long range. The statements made by President Perez in all the international forums following the tragic events of 27 and 28 February had to do in general terms with the socially explosive situation existing in Latin America because of the crisis, and because of what the debt burden has meant. I believe that his urgings have had broad repercussions and a positive effect on the decisions the industrialized countries have made, especially the Brady initiative in the United States.

Refinancing

[EL NACIONAL] We hope that President Perez will be successful in the negotiations with the creditor banks which have just recently begun. We have already seen that it is beginning to be said in the centers of financial power that Venezuela will not be given the same conditions or "concessions" as they gave Mexico.

[Rodriguez] We are happy that Mexico has reached an agreement which will certainly serve the interests of this fraternal country. But we are not limited to that point of reference. We hope for a substantially larger discount. Venezuela is not asking for fresh money. We will channel all of the resources we need through the multilateral credit bodies and bilateral agreements. We are seeking to achieve restructuring of the debt with a reduction in principal and interest.

[EL NACIONAL] The bank says that its figures do not agree with those of the government.

[Rodriguez] The figures put forth are those of the Monetary Fund and the international credit institutions. They are not figures provided by the national government.

[EL NACIONAL] The government has said that the gap this year will be $2 billion, while the bank warns that it will be much less.

[Rodriguez] In connection with the $2 billion, we have made revisions, because the oil income has varied. The bank says that the gap will be $1.5 billion. We have admitted that the gap has been reduced to approximately $1.7 billion. These are normal things which occur in any

negotiations. What we do not agree to is that we should close the gap with fresh money.

[EL NACIONAL] The bridge loan of $600 million, of which Chase Manhattan had succeeded in getting together $475 million, was "blocked" after the matter had been virtually decided. Now each of the 21 banks invited to participate say that either they all will, or none will. What happened?

[Rodriguez] This is normal, because banks do not like to make loans so that the borrower can pay others. This loan was requested so that the Republic could bring its commitments up to date, both on the commercial debt and on the letters of credit. But the fact that not all of the members of the committee participated in this banking club, added to the fact that negotiations were about to begin on new refinancing, may possibly have interfered with the granting of this loan.

[EL NACIONAL] What will happen to the $475 million Chase had succeeded in getting together?

[Rodriguez] In reality, it does not represent a credit for the 1989 balance of payments.

[EL NACIONAL] Will the banks lend the $600 million the government requested or will they not?

[Rodriguez] The banks have not given any final answer.

[EL NACIONAL] The creditors allege that if this loan were to be granted, Venezuela would have to have its interest payments up to date. According to my information they are not up to date, but are tending toward default.

[Rodriguez] Venezuela is a responsible country which will honor its commitments to the extent that we have the resources. We are not going to put the economic program in danger, nor will we subordinate our national interests to prompt service of the foreign debt. We will fulfill our commitments to the extent that the responsible agents also fulfill theirs to us.

Recovery Rejected

[EL NACIONAL] The direct intervention of George Bush and Carlos Salinas de Gortari made the Mexican agreement possible. It is not clear what happened with the step-up clause, by means of which the creditors could, at any time over a period of 7 years, return to the point of departure in the negotiations. Nor do we know what happened with the "recovery" clause, which allowed the bank 20 cents on the dollar if this country's oil were sold at more than $14 per barrel.

[Rodriguez] Mexico rejected the step-up clause calling for a return to the point of origin, because this would indeed have done away with the reduction of the Mexican debt. The recovery clause was retained and will begin to function as of 1996, but under conditions which are relatively favorable for Mexico.

[EL NACIONAL] Will the government of President Perez accept this recovery clause?

[Rodriguez] No. The desire of the Venezuelan government is to obtain a plain discounting of the debt without such a clause, based on the fact that we are providing better and more substantial guarantees than those provided by Mexico.

[EL NACIONAL] What are these guarantees?

[Rodriguez] With regard to principal, it might be the purchase of a 20-year zero coupon bond. And for interest, payment over 4 years. Mexico could only offer 18 months' guarantee.

[EL NACIONAL] How will Venezuela be able to guarantee payment of the interest over these 4 years?

[Rodriguez] The Republic of Venezuela guarantees it, but at this time I am not going to say how.

[EL NACIONAL] How did Mexico guarantee its 18 months' payments?

[Rodriguez] In the Mexican case, the resources are coming basically from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and Japan. In the Venezuelan case, it is possible that we will make up a part of our guarantee with IMF resources, as well.

No Guarantee Required

[EL NACIONAL] You have said that the bank is offering fresh money without any guarantee. Do you believe that the creditors would lend $3 billion without a guarantee?

[Rodriguez] Absolutely. For all of the countries which have had loans of fresh money, there have been no guarantees. It would have been a blunder on our part to have accepted fresh money last year, using oil as the guarantee. And that same year, the first offers they made us for an interim loan of 600 million required no guarantees. We flatly refused to provide any guarantee for this type of credit. The only thing for which Venezuela will provide guarantees will be the restructuring and reduction of the debt or the debt service. Venezuela does not need new debts to the commercial banks to finance its high growth and investment programs in the coming years. What we do need is decent refinancing, a substantial reduction in the debt and the debt service.

Guyana

Sugar Workers Union Calls Off Strike

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 25, CANA—A one-week strike in Guyana's sugar industry has been called off by the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union [GAWU].

There were conflicting reports Monday, however, about the level of turnout. General secretary of the GAWU Komal Chand, said sugar workers started returning to their jobs Saturday and the situation was back to normal Monday.

The state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation [Guysuco], however, said not more than about 60 per cent of the workforce was back on the job Monday and at least three major estates were badly affected by a low turnout of various categories of workers.

The strike was called by GAWU last Monday to back demands that Guysuco speed up its wages talks with the union. Chand said today that with the situation "back normal" on the estates, sugar workers were anxiously looking forward to an early resumption of the talks. He accused Guysuco of "still hedging" about fixing an early date for the continuation of the talks.

The corporation informed GAWU on Monday about what it considered the poor turnout of workers on the estates and stressed that a meeting for the continuation of the wages negotiations would not be scheduled before there was a full resumption. The union said it would be insisting that the talks be continued daily until an agreement was reached.

Chand said the union, having studied a financial statement submitted to it by Guysuco, was satisfied that the state-owned corporation could pay workers a minimum wage of Guy100 dollars (one Guy dollar ; three cents U.S.) daily instead of the existing 40 dollars, which it unilaterally implemented earlier this month.

Guysuco reported over the weekend that while last week's sugar production was affected by what is called "an unnecessary week-long strike", the industry managed to produce 2,335 long tons of sugar, or 40.5 per cent of the week's target.